BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.113 BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 30 | PRICE ₹5**

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UK PM Keir Starmer battles to remain in his job as 4 junior ministers resign and dozens of lawmakers call for him to step down in the wake of heavy defeats in local and regional polls, P 14

A Dutch hospital has quarantined 12 staff members in a preventive measure after blood and urine from a hantavirus patient were **handled without observing strict protocols**, P 14

Nepal Supreme Court stays PM Balendra Shah govt's decisions to dissolve civil service trade unions and student organisations in universities, handing Shah the sharpest legal setback in his first 45 days in office, P 14

Oly bronze winner Sakshi Malik supports Vinesh Phogat in her tussle with WFI, says attempts are being made to block her at a time when countries are relaxing norms to help new mothers resume careers, P 22

NEET-UG cancelled after 'paper leak', 23L students hit, CBI to probe case

Exam Nixed For 1st Time Since NTA Took Over in 2019

Manash Gohain & Hemali Chhapia

New Delhi/Mumbai: National Testing Agency on Tuesday cancelled NEET-UG-2026 — held on May 3 — after its investigators found evidence that several questions appearing similar to those in the medical entrance exam's paper had been circulated before the test. Govt has handed over the "question paper leak" case to CBI and said a fresh examination date will be announced soon.

The cancellation affects nearly 23 lakh aspirants and marks the first time NEET-UG has been fully scrapped since NTA took over its conduct in 2019 — it was partially re-conducted for a little over 1,563 students in 2024 following discrepancies in marks.

Investigators of the testing agency, tracing the alleged leak trail, have linked it to a printing agency in Jaipur and coaching networks spread across Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar and Kerala, with Nashik police detaining a suspect and CBI — after registering an FIR — conducting raids at 12 places across India.

FULL COVERAGE: P 4 & 10

▶ **Policy violated, P 10**

STRING OF CONTROVERSIES

2024 Paper Leak And Malpractice Allegations of a paper leak emerged in **Patna**, where candidates reportedly paid between **₹30L** and **₹50L** for advance access to questions

- In **Godhra**, a teacher was accused of helping students fill in OMR sheets for a fee
- 'Incorrect distribution' of papers occurred at a centre in **Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur**

'24 Result Irregularities Results saw unprecedented **67 students achieving perfect scores (720/720)**, which was later reduced to 17 after SC disallowed marks for a controversial physics question based on an old textbook error

- **Students also received 'mathematically impossible' scores of 718 and 719 due to compensatory 'grace marks'** awarded for lost time, which were later withdrawn

2026 'guess paper' leak A controversy erupted when a **'guess paper' circulating in Rajasthan allegedly matched nearly 600 marks** worth of questions from that 720 marks of actual exam. This led to eventual cancellation of exam

SFI members being detained on Tuesday during a protest at Shastri Bhawan in Delhi against the NEET exam paper leak

Mafia sold paper for ₹10L-25L: Raj cops

Rajasthan Police's SOG said a "paper leak mafia" had sold a leaked question paper for Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh a copy across a network stretching from Rajasthan and Haryana to Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Kerala. In Nashik, police detained a 27-year-old from Nandgaon who had allegedly altered his appearance to evade detection. P 10

'Shattered after all the hard work, stress'

Just when students were beginning to relax after months of stress, the NEET cancellation came as a fresh blow, leaving many anxious. "It is exhausting to dive back again," said one student, while another said she was heartbroken after months of intense preparation. P 4

State approves 12.5% pay hike for transport staff

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt on Tuesday approved a 12.5% salary hike for employees of the state's four road transport corporations, benefiting more than one lakh workers. The move will increase the monthly salary burden on the corporations by Rs 72.8 crore, translating into an annual outgo of Rs 873.6 crore.

The announcement comes a day after the govt increased dearness allowance (DA) for all state employees and pensioners by 1.5%. Under the revised order, DA has been raised from 14.2% to 15.7% of basic pay with retrospective effect from Jan 1, 2026.

The DA revision is expected to cost the state exchequer around Rs 500 crore annually. TNN

▶ **Revised pay scale, P 3**

Probe: Gelatin box on PM's route had batteries, wires & real-time clock

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The gelatin scare on PM Modi's route to the Art of Living Foundation took a serious turn with the suspicious carton box — seized on Sunday with gelatin sticks, matchsticks, and camphor — also containing batteries, wires, a real-time clock and an LCD display.

On Sunday and Monday, police maintained the box had only gelatin sticks, matchsticks, and camphor. Other materials used in an explosive device were revealed only after central agencies — National Investigation Agency and Intelligence Bureau — sought details of the probe currently handled by Karnataka police.

Though the nature of contents of the box is alarming, a police officer probing the case said the devices were not potent enough to cause an explosion. "The intent was, perhaps, to create panic and commotion around the PM's twin events in Bengaluru," the officer added.

No terror angle, min says probe's still on

Home minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday ruled out any terror angle to the gelatin case and said investigations were still on. Stating the police did a "good job" by finding gelatin sticks ahead of PM's visit, he said Karnataka was ready to hand over the probe to NIA. P 3

▶ **Who placed box, P 3**

Will follow Assam model on border security: Suvendu

On the day he attended the swearing-in of his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma, Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari said his govt would follow Assam-style crackdown on illegal immigration with tight frontier policing, rapid border fencing and closer coordination with BJP-governed eastern states. "The work done in Assam and Tripura in national interest will be carried out by BJP in Bengal," Adhikari said. P 12

AIADMK faction eyes 5 or 6 ministerial berths, but TVK non-committal for now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Having weaned away 28 of the AIADMK's 47 MLAs from party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, the C Ve Shanmugam-S P Velumani faction is nursing the idea of joining the Joseph Vijay-led govt after supporting the confidence vote in the Tamil Nadu assembly on Wednesday.

While the group claims to have struck a deal with TVK to get "five or six" ministerial berths, TVK sources said Vijay has made no commitment as of now. An AIADMK MLA said Vijay spoke to Shanmugam a few days ago.

"We are joining the govt, the legislator told **TOI**. "The number of ministers will be decided later."

A TVK minister, however, denied this, saying Vijay has welcomed the AIADMK faction's support "though we are not in need of it to win the vote of confidence".

Moreover, such a move would upset VCK, IUML, and the Left parties that have supported TVK, he said.

Some members of the Shanmugam group said Vijay visiting Shanmugam's office on Tuesday has prompted several fence-sitters to move towards them.

- **Court bars 1-vote victor of TVK from floor test, P 7**
- **Vijay's astrologer made OSD, TVK allies see red, P 12**

▶ **Conduct inquiry, P 10**

Rahul 'strongly dissents' on CBI chief selection

A selection panel — comprising PM Modi, CJI Surya Kant and opposition leader Rahul Gandhi — met Tuesday to deliberate on appointment of next CBI chief. Disagreeing with the process, Rahul submitted a note of dissent. He said: "...I was not provided with the self-appraisal reports or 360-degree reports of the eligible candidates. Instead, I was expected to examine the appraisal records of 69 candidates for the first time during the meeting..." P 10

Court: People's will, through lawmakers, can bring reforms

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
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New Delhi: A nine-judge SC bench led by CJI Surya Kant on Tuesday cautioned constitutional courts against effecting changes in religious practices and customs and said only the people's will, reflected through their representatives in Parliament and assemblies, could bring social and religious reforms.

The bench, which has been hearing the sensitive faith vs fundamental rights debate, said, "Constitutional courts should be extremely reluctant to give its views on religious matters."

▶ **Courts will accept, P 10**

IN THE COURTS

- SC to hear ED plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Bengal coal smuggling accused, says **agency dragging feet** | **Flap opp**
- HC pulls up Prayagraj admin for **fresh probe into a Muslim asst prof's conversion to Hinduism** | **Flap opp**
- SC asks Rajasthan to introduce **Rajasthani as a subject and medium of instruction in all schools** in a phased manner | **Flap opp**
- **Waiting for a bus without a shelter** or seats to sit **violates citizens' right to live with dignity**, rules Bombay high court | **Flap opp**

Even Mahabharat would pale, says SC on Kapur spat

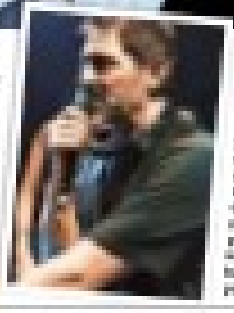
New Delhi: With a fresh plea being filed in the property dispute between late industrialist Sunjay Kapur's mother Rani and his wife Priya just days after SC appointed former CJI D Y Chandrachud as mediator, the apex court has said that even Mahabharat would pale in comparison to the family legal battle.

The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Justice J B Pardiwala and SC agreed to hear it May 14. Rani Kapur has alleged that SC's order of May 7 was being circumvented. SC had suggested the family keep their dispute within themselves and refrain from making statements in public. TNN

Bangalore Times

Will this be India's carpool moment?

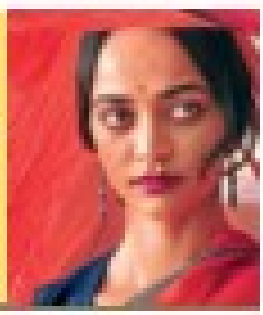
I've been spinning music since I was 17: Arjun Rampal



Shilpa Ganesh turns singer with a romantic track for a Tulu film

Buzzstop

MIRA NAIR UNVEILS FIRST LOOK OF PAINTER AMRITA SHER-GIL BIOPIC



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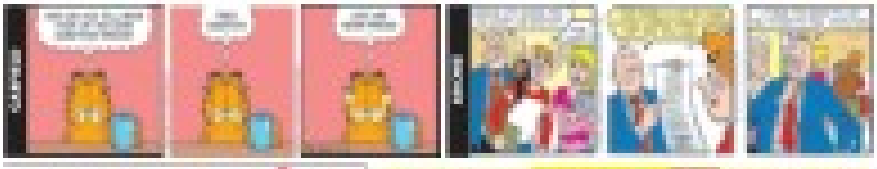
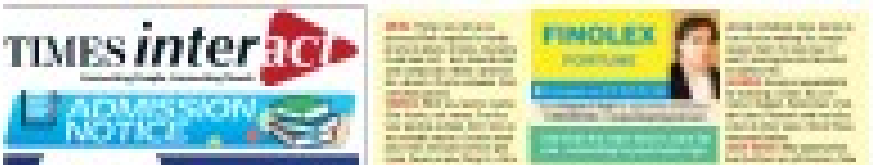
Femina Beauty Awards 2026 takes off on a starry note





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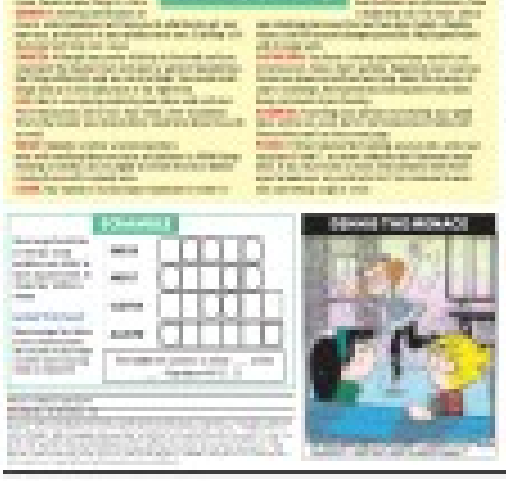

YOU'VE GOT A THREAT MAIL!

Hoax emails outnumber calls in Karnataka

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Hoax bomb threats sent on emails far outnumber prank calls in Karnataka, according to state police data. Between Jan 2024 and the first week of April 2026, police registered 208 hoax bomb threat emails against 42 hoax calls.

The numbers also reveal a sharp rise in email-based threats. Karnataka recorded 59 such cases in 2024, 94 in 2025, and 55 cases in the first four months of this year.

Hoax calls have declined steadily — 31 in 2024, nine in 2025 and a handful yet this year, police said.

Officials confirmed that Bengaluru remains the biggest hotspot for both hoax calls and threat emails, especially those targeting schools, colleges, courts and government offices.

TOUGH TO CRACK

- Temporary email services often require no identity verification
- VPNs mask sender's original location
- The Onion Router (Tor) routing hides IP addresses through global nodes
- Foreign servers require lengthy Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty procedures
- Many providers delete logs within 24 to 72 hours
- Email headers can be spoofed, misleading investigators

Source: SIT

Bengaluru has, in recent years, witnessed waves of hoax bomb emails sent in bulk to educational institutions, forcing evacuations and large-scale security checks. Police had constituted a special investigation team led by joint commissioner Vamsi Krishna to investigate such cases

ADGP (law & order) R Hitendra said many of the accused are individuals acting out of frustration or curiosity about how the system responds. "Such individuals are arrested and chargesheeted. But it takes time to trace miscreants sitting in other countries and sending hoax mails through fake VPN," he pointed out.

SIT set up

Bengaluru has, in recent years, witnessed waves of hoax bomb emails sent in bulk to educational institutions, forcing evacuations and large-scale security checks. Police had constituted a special investigation team led by joint commissioner Vamsi Krishna to investigate the rise in such cases.

According to him, many perpetrators use temporary or encrypted email platforms such as Guerrilla Mail, Temp Mail and Proton Mail that either do not maintain user logs or encrypt information end to end. Even when investigators obtain IP details, they often lead to VPN servers located abroad.

Youth stabbed by 4 men for honking

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 23-year-old courier-delivery person was stabbed by four men for honking when they blocked the road near his house in Banaswadi, east Bengaluru.

According to the complaint filed by Appu, a resident of Sathyanagar, the incident happened between 10pm and 10.30pm on May 9. He was returning home after work when the gang refused to let him pass on I Cross.

So, he honked and asked them to make way, and the situation quickly escalated.

The men allegedly picked up a quarrel with Appu, and one of them stabbed him on the upper left side of his chest.

When Appu cried for help in pain, others residents and passers-by rushed towards the spot, prompting the group to flee the scene.

Appu's elder brother took him to hospital. A case was registered under BNS Section 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

Knocking at doors: 1.5 lakh houses locked, 5.7L vacant

Nat'l Census Deadline Ends On May 15

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Bengaluru: With just 72 hours left for the National Census in GBA to conclude, officials are faced with a daunting task: 1.5 lakh houses remain locked despite multiple visits and 5.7 lakh houses vacant or unoccupied.

Officials fear if these homes — declared locked as per the 1pm update of May 12 provided by the households covered progress report — remain inaccessible before the May 15 deadline, then they may lose out on the enumeration process. As of now, there is no clarity if these locked houses would be revisited after the deadline. Officials said the main reason behind locked houses is summer holidays, with families travelling to hometowns or going on vacations.

An enumerator told **TOI** they have been regularly visiting both locked and vacant houses to see if occupants have returned. Among the five city zones of GBA, East reported the highest number of locked houses at 61,470, continuing to remain a major concern for officials. This was followed by South (29,367), North (21,989), West (20,512) and Central (19,221).

While the number of locked houses has marginally reduced compared to previous days, the challenge of revisiting homes remains significant, particularly in neighbourhoods with working families, migrant tenants and apartment complexes where residents are often unavailable during daytime visits.

Apart from locked homes, vacant census houses have emerged as another major category slowing the enumeration process. Many vacant houses are unoccupied apartments, rental homes awaiting tenants or properties under construction or renovation.

Data shows officials have identified 5.7 lakh vacant houses across Bengaluru. West recorded the highest number at 1.3 lakh, East (1.29 lakh), North (1.21 lakh), Bengaluru South (1.28 lakh), and Central (60,493).

Ramachandran R, the director for census in Karnataka, was unavailable for comments.

SURVEY SO FAR

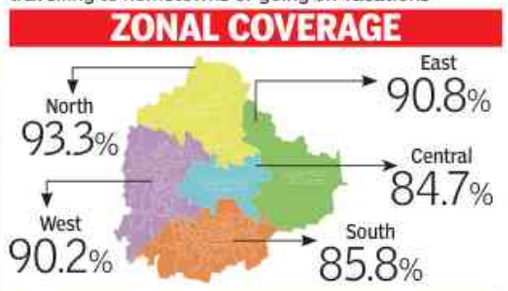
Total households **51.8 lakh**

Overall coverage **89.2%**

Covered **46.2 lakh**

LOCKED OUT: Officials said the main reason behind locked houses is summer holidays, with families travelling to hometowns or going on vacations

ZONAL COVERAGE



"I've ensured our enumerators visit locked houses multiple times. We have taken contact numbers from neighbouring houses and called them to participate in the census. We have also been in touch with RWAs. We have a count of such houses, but not details of its occupants. We're not sure what will happen to locked houses when this round of census concludes on May 15
Pommala Sunil Kumar | COMMISSIONER, BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

PWD engineer jumps to death from hilltop

Bengaluru: Reportedly upset after his mother passed away last year, a 33-year-old public works department (PWD) engineer Monday jumped to his death from the hilltop at Devarayanadurga in Tumakuru district.

Manju Prasad, resident of Satyamangala in Tumakuru and working with Pavagada PWD, is survived by wife and 10-day-old newborn.

Police said Prasad left home, telling his wife he was going to Pavagada office. "Instead, he visited a relative in Koratagere, which is close to Devarayanadurga. He told the relative he had come to attend an urgent meeting. Before leaving, he handed over his mobile phone and house key. Surprised, the relative called Prasad's family. The latter asked the relative to head to Devarayanadurga and see what Prasad was up to. However, by the time he reached Devarayanadurga, Prasad had jumped from the hilltop. His body was found 200 feet below," an officer said. TNN

ALMANAC (13.5.2026)

Mesha Masa 29 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Vasantha Ritu – Tithi: Vaisakha Krishna Ekadasi h. 13-30 Nakshatra: Uttara Bhadrapada h. 24-18 Yoga: Viskumbha h. 20-55. 25 Zu'lqada Kali Day 1872708
Rahu Kalam 12-1.30pm
— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Home min: Ready to hand over gelatin probe to NIA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Home minister G Parameshwara Tuesday said the govt is ready to hand over the gelatin probe to National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is seeking details of the investigation.

Stating that Karnataka police did a "good job" by finding gelatin sticks ahead of the PM's visit to Bengaluru Sunday morning, he said the case is under investigation and didn't want to share details. "If NIA wants to join the probe, then our reply will be in the affirmative. Let them investigate the case," he said.

He brushed aside queries on any terror angle to the case, saying investigations were still on.

A special investigation team comprising 50 personnel, including four inspectors, has been formed to probe the incident.

Police officers are trying to determine the origin of the gelatin sticks, how they reached the location, and whether there is any connection between the threat call and the recovery.

BJP leader B Sriramulu demanded a probe by NIA, calling the incident a serious security lapse.

Suspect not cooperating with us, say police

Lohith alias Lohith Krishnappa, 42, from Koramangala 8th Block arrested for making a hoax call during the Prime Minister's visit, is not cooperating with investigations, police said.

Police said Lohith made a hoax call from a mobile phone to police control room Sunday morning claiming blasts would be carried out at HAL Airport and Art of Living Foundation — two venues of Modi — and had sent threatening messages on WhatsApp.

Police have seized three mobile phones and a laptop from Lohith, who is in 10-day police custody, and sent them to the forensic science laboratory to retrieve data.

Investigators said Lohith, from Tamil Nadu, travelled to Sulikere and other places in Tamil Nadu from May 8 to 10. They clarified that Lohith does not have a history of making threatening calls or messages. Lohith claimed he learnt about the PM's visit from AOL devotees.

TOI

The spot where the gelatin sticks box was found ahead of PM's visit

Yet to identify who placed box: Cop

▶ Continued from page 1

Personnel from NIA, IB and Internal Security Division are collecting details of the explosives found near Kuppareddy Kere, about 2km from AOL and 90 minutes before the PM's convoy was to pass through on Sunday.

Deputy inspector general of police (Central) S Girish said the investigation was being carried out from all angles and they were yet to identify the person who placed the gelatin box next to the wall of Kuppareddy Kere.

Police said special teams have been formed and sent to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. CCTV cameras at entry and exit points towards Art of Living Foundation and Kuppareddy Kere are being analysed. A team is also checking cameras on routes connecting Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Bengaluru city.

Police have registered a case under Explosives Act. Investigation is headed by the Ramanagara deputy superintendent of police.

3 caught trying to sell antler

Bengaluru: Central Crime Branch sleuths caught three men trying to sell an antler near a college in Bengaluru.

The accused are A Karyappa, 53, from Chikkasandra; K Manjunath, 39 from Marenahalli; Murali R, 29, from Moodalapalya.

The prime suspect, a resident of Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu, who supplied the antler to the trio, is missing, a police officer said. TNN

Auto, taxi operators seek subsidy to shift from LPG to CNG and EV

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Autorickshaw and taxi operators in Karnataka urged the state and Union govts to provide immediate financial assistance and policy support in the wake of a prolonged LPG shortage. The operators also sought subsidies for converting existing LPG-run vehicles to CNG and EVs.

COSTLY CONVERSION

In a representation submitted to the govt, Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations said acute scarcity of LPG has forced thousands of LPG-run autos and taxis off the roads.

According to federation president S Nataraja Sharma, converting an auto or taxi from LPG to CNG costs around Rs 55,000, while conversion to electric vehicles costs nearly Rs 1.3 lakh.

The federation sought soft loans at low interest rates, expansion of CNG infrastructure, uninterrupted CNG supply, and welfare measures for drivers and owners belonging to the unorganised transport sector. It pointed out during the pandemic, several relief schemes were extended to MSME-registered entities, while many small transport operators in the unorganised sector were excluded from them.

Victim switched off charger after 3 to 4 hours

▶ Continued from page 1

Nathan switched off the vehicle charger after three-four hours. Around 3am, the scooter battery allegedly exploded, triggering a fire in the room.

Hearing the explosion, Anthony and his wife rushed downstairs and doused the fire. The fire damaged household items like a sofa, television, and plastic chairs.

Nathan who was seriously injured was rushed to Bowring hospital where he succumbed to his burn injuries, said an investigating officer.

Police have registered it as an unnatural death.

Transport staff to get revised pay scale effective from April 1, 2025

▶ Continued from page 1

The revised pay scale for employees of BMTC, KSRTC, KKRTC and NWKRTC will take effect retrospectively from April 1, 2025. The transport department said arrears would be released in phases depending upon the financial condition of each corporation.

The four transport corporations together have salary arrears of nearly Rs 7,130 crore. The DA hike will also apply to zilla panchayat employees, temporary staff members, and full-time workers of aided educational institutions.

Separate orders will be issued for employees covered under UGC, AICTE, ICAR and the National Judicial Pay Commission.

- Over 1L transport employees to benefit
- Pay revision to add Rs 873.6 crore annually to corporations' salary burden
- Govt also raises DA for employees and pensioners by 1.5% from Jan 1, 2026

Karnataka State Government Employees Association president CS Shadakshari said the DA hike would benefit nearly 5.2 lakh govt employees, 3 lakh staff members of boards and corporations, and 4.5 lakh pensioners.

IIHR scientists develop new variety of GI-tagged Chakkota to revive B'luru's vanishing citrus fruit

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Bengaluru: Once a common sight in orchards and homesteads around Devanahalli on the outskirts of Bengaluru, the GI-tagged Chakkota (Pummelo) has now largely disappeared from commercial cultivation, surviving mostly in backyard gardens.

In an effort to revive the nearly-forgotten citrus fruit and restore its commercial viability, scientists at Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Hesaraghatta, have developed a new pummelo variety — Arka Siva — suited for largescale cultivation in the dry landscapes of Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapura and Kolar districts.

IIHR scientists said the new variety not only overcomes major drawbacks associated with traditional pummelo varieties, but also introduces a distinctive sweet orange-like flavour aimed at improving consumer acceptance and market demand.

Prof M Sankaran, a scientist at IIHR, told **TOI** the new variety was developed after years of research involving collection and evaluation of seeds from several known pummelo varieties. "The latest variety is a half-sib selection (best extracted seed with high yield and better growth) from Tirupati-2 variety. The major drawbacks in the existing varieties include bitterness, thick rind and too many seeds," he said.

According to scientists, the new variety records a total soluble solids (TSS) value of 12.2 Brix and acidity levels between 0.7% and 0.8%, resulting in a balanced sweetness with an overall sugar content of about 10.9%. "Lower TSS means the fruit will be more bitter. The widely propagated ones around Bengaluru had TSS less than 10 and hence, they tasted bitter. Even the previous varieties that IIHR developed — Ananta and Chandra — also had TSS around 11 Brix, he said.

Scientists pointed out that rampant real estate expansion around Devanahalli had reduced pummelo cultivation from organised plantations to scattered backyard trees. They believe the new variety could help revive commercial cultivation because of its higher productivity and adaptability. "The tree grows up to 5.2 metres in height, suited for open orchards. The medium-sized fruits would weigh around 1.6kg. Evident to its antioxidant potential, the fruit has 38.8mg of ascorbic acid per 100ml along with 64.1mg and 3.49mg per 100g of phenol and flavonoids. Rich in minerals like copper, zinc, manganese, calcium and potassium, the fruit is known for its medicinal and therapeutic properties. The antioxidants help lower cholesterol and triglycerides," he said.

"Unlike the regular pink flesh, the Siva variety is white flesh but has more juice due to thin (2.3cm) green or yellowish rind. Also, in a stark contrast to the tangy flavour, this variety will have sweet orange flavour
Prof M Sankaran | SCIENTIST AT IIHR

Revival of jamun berry with more pulp

With diabetes cases rising, demand for jamun berries has increased significantly in recent years. However, farmers and consumers alike have remained dissatisfied with existing varieties because of their thick seeds and low pulp content. To address the issue, IIHR scientists have developed a new jamun variety — Arka Jamun Pride — which offers significantly higher pulp recovery and larger fruit size.

"Almost all existing varieties used to yield less than 50% pulp due to large-sized seeds. Unlike popular berries in the market that weigh 15 to 18 grams, this variety berries weigh 23 to 25 grams and pulp recovery exceeds 74% with a TSS value of 14.5 Brix and anthocyanin content of 66.94mg/100 grams. Also, each tree of the latest variety will yield 100kg of fruits and has been successfully raised at IIHR Hesaraghatta and Hirehalli near Tumakuru," added Prof Karunakaran, another fruit scientist at IIHR.

India's carpool map: Survival tactic in some cities, side hustle in others

'Carpooling in Mumbai is popular but not as mainstream as local trains'

BENGALURUANS HAVE MIXED VIEWS ON CARPOOLING

"The time and energy lost is not worth it"

Difficult for flexible professions

'Carpooling is a necessity in Pune'

Hyderabad's IT corridor drives demand

'Delhi is one of the most vehicle-dense cities in India'

The Gold Conundrum

POV

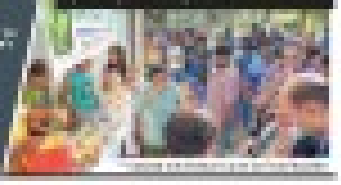
Mango Mela returns to Bengaluru amid hopes of a price drop

Shop and list

Prices of popular varieties

Will the decline in exports affect mango prices?

Talk of the town



FUTURE TENSE: NEET UG PAPER LEAK HAS LEFT 1.5 LAKH KARNATAKA CANDIDATES IN A FIX

Shocked students dread retest, mull switch to engg and CUET

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A wave of shock, disbelief and disappointment gripped 1.5 lakh students in Karnataka who appeared for the May 3 NEET, gateway for admission to medical courses, following reports of question paper leak.

"Many of us are emotionally drained. It is not easy to regain the momentum," said a candidate, who now has to write NEET afresh.

After months of gruelling preparation and attending college and coaching back to back with no downtime, students were expecting a quiet period to recoup and look forward to allotment of seats when the news of paper leak and cancellation of exam hit them like a thunderbolt.

"What NTA (National Testing Agency, which conducts exam) has done is unforgivable. After last year's disappointment, I put in so much effort. It's heartbreaking now. NTA should take more care and responsibility. This kind of development takes a toll on our health," said RC Prateeksha, a drop-year student at Aakash, a training institute.

Several students expressed fears of burnout, besides reduced preparation time for a re-test. "It's a nightmare to return to the syllabus just when we were getting ready to move on. I can't shift to other career options. And I can't give up on my dream, either," said Susiraji K, a long-term NEET aspirant.

Logistics is another pain point. "My child has to travel back to his residential school at Karkala in coastal Udupi district. Now, he's saying he will not write the exam again," said his father, saddled with the unpleasant task of convincing his son to reappear for the test.

"Students are out of exam mode. Students who secured good marks — especially between 500 and 580 — are upset. Those with less marks feel this is a second opportunity," said Raghavendra Hegde, a chemistry teacher and NEET guide.

—**Nadi Ganadhal**

NEET MESS

IANS

UP IN ARMS: Karnataka Youth Congress members protest in Bengaluru over cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 following alleged paper leak

"Many students are reluctant to take the retest as they are either disappointed or in a holiday mood. They are looking at engineering, instead. After the paper leak, they are uncertain if the next exam would be fair or incident-free
Sridhar G | FOUNDER, DEEKSHA NETWORKS

"As a topper's parent, I'm relieved at the retest. My son — with a score of 685 as per NTA key answer — was aspiring for Bangalore Medical College. He feared the college might be out of reach if others indulging in malpractice got better scores. We are happy with the retest
Muniswamy Thimmegowda | PARENT

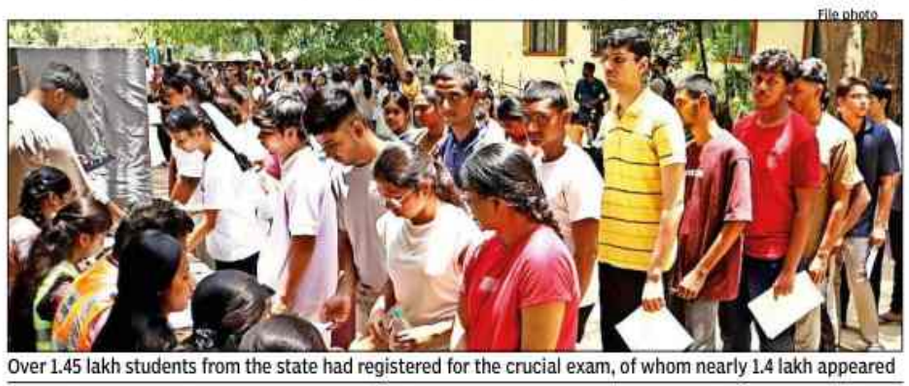
"It was my drop year, and I suffered multiple breakdowns in the past year. Compared with previous years, the 2026 paper was easier. Now, I won't write the re-exam. I'll prepare for CUET, instead
Priyani Sarkar | ADAMAS WORLD SCHOOL

"This was my first drop year. I was confident of getting a dental seat. Now, I have to restart. I'll never be able to trust NTA again
Aayushi Priya | STUDENT

Min bats for decentralisation of NEET

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo



Over 1.45 lakh students from the state had registered for the crucial exam, of whom nearly 1.4 lakh appeared

Bengaluru: Following the controversy over alleged paper leaks in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), higher education minister MC Sudhakar urged the Centre and Supreme Court to decentralise the examination process and allow states to conduct NEET independently.

Around 1.45 lakh students from the state had registered for the exam, of whom nearly 1.40 lakh appeared, recording an attendance rate of 96.48%.

"Karnataka legislature has passed a resolution to scrap NEET and allow states to conduct these exams so that such disruptions will not happen. There should be a serious debate on this. They should file an affidavit in the SC saying that we failed to conduct the exams and centralised exams are not possible in this country. It is high time states took the responsibility of conducting the exams," he said. "Let there be a separate exam for All India quota, as earlier. As a centralised system, we see that NTA has been breached. The biggest concern is that for admission to MBBS, only NEET exam is considered. If at all, we consider grade 12 exams too, this pressure would reduce," he added.

Min seeks action against coaching centres

Minister for medical education Sharan Prakash Patil slammed the Centre and demanded Union education minister's resignation. "For the past four to five years, irregularities in NEET have been a recurring phenomenon. BJP govt at the Centre is entirely responsible for this mess. The Prime Minister must stop making grand speeches and instead provide immediate solutions. The man who hosts 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' must first resolve the chaos in this exam," he said.

Patil expressed concern over the mental wellbeing of students who prepared diligently for the exam. "Conducting the examination all over again is unfair to honest students. It causes immense stress and hardship to them and their families," he said.

He called for strict regulatory action against coaching centres indulging in such malpractices and urged the Centre to break the nexus between coaching industries and examination authorities.

School education minister Madhu Bangarappa expressed concern over the burden on students. "We are constantly trying to reduce the academic and mental stress of children at school level. However, such irresponsible decisions of the Central govt are pushing children and parents into a pit of despair," he said.

Various students' organisations also called for decentralisation of the exam.

"By stripping states of their autonomy and concentrating the entire medical entrance process into a single window controlled by NTA, the govt has created a single-point failure system. This structure makes it easier for organised mafias to sabotage the future of millions with one stroke. We demand scrapping NTA and immediately reverting to state-level Common Entrance Tests. Alternatively, we advocate for a return to transparent, merit-based counselling conducted at the state level based on Class 12 results," said Mahesh SG, secretary, AISEC All India Save Education Committee.

Karnataka will set up 1,243 high-capacity EV chargers

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@timesofindia.com

YOU READ IT IN TOI

Bengaluru: In a major boost to Karnataka's electric mobility ambitions, the Centre Tuesday approved the state's proposal to establish 1,243 EV-charging stations under PM E-Drive scheme, paving the way for largescale expansion of charging infrastructure across the state.

The approval comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi advocated for wider adoption of battery-operated vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and cut foreign exchange outflow. Karnataka submitted its proposal nearly six months ago, seeking support to roll out 1,250 high-capacity charging stations.

Announcing the approval at a conference on "Enabling nationwide EV-charging infrastructure under PM E-Drive scheme" in Bengaluru, Union minister for heavy industries HD Kumaraswamy said Karnataka is fast becoming a frontrunner in India's EV transition, and "Bengaluru has emerged as the country's leading EV-charging hub by aggressively pursuing the concept". According to state govt sources, the overall project is estimated to cost Rs 777 crore. Of this, the Centre is expected to contribute Rs 352 crore, while the remaining will be borne by electricity supply companies (Escoms). **TOI** had first reported about Karnataka's proposal on Oct 21, 2025.

100% subsidy

Officials said under the first phase of PM E-Drive scheme, 406 high-capacity charging stations will come up at strategic locations, particularly along national highways, to support long-distance EV travel. The scheme offers 100% subsidy for upstream infrastructure such as transformers, transmission lines and conductors, along with 70% subsidy for other equipment.

The initiative also aims at strengthening Karnataka's EV ecosystem beyond private vehicles by supporting electric buses and trucks. Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), the nodal agency for implementing the charging network, has proposed high-capacity stations to facilitate this shift towards cleaner commercial mobility.

"Each of these stations support fast charging ranging from 60 kW to 240 kW, which is sufficient to recharge heavy vehicles in 30 to 45 minutes for long-distance operations. Besides, these charging points will help EV owners overcome range anxiety while travelling on major highways, as these stations are likely to come up in and around fuel stations," an energy department official explained.

MM Hills pilgrimage trek now limited to twice a year

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TOI

Talabetta gate in MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Chamarajanagar

Bengaluru: Alarmed by back-to-back leopard attacks on pilgrims trekking to the famous Male Mahadeshwara temple atop MM Hills in Chamarajanagar district, including the recent killing of a 10-year-old boy from Bengaluru near Nagamale hill shrine, the govt Tuesday imposed strict restrictions.

It decided to permit the traditional 7-km hill climb only during the annual Shivaratri and Ugadi fairs. The govt also suspended trekking in forest areas across Karnataka wherever there is movement of wildlife.

Facing criticism from pilgrims and residents over the rising number of wildlife attacks, forest minister Eshwar Khandre convened a meeting with senior department officials and directed them to enforce stricter safety measures. "Other than these occasions (Shivaratri and Ugadi fairs), pilgrims should not be allowed to climb the hills spanning 7km distance," he said.

The minister also reviewed safety arrangements at Nagamale shrine, located around 14km from MM Hills. As thousands of pilgrims undertake the forest trek to the shrine every year, Khandre ruled out unrestricted trekking through the full stretch. "All pilgrims will now be required to travel 11km by jeep from MM Hills ticket counter, with trekking is permitted only on the final 3-km rugged forest stretch leading to the shrine. All along this 3-km stretch, the department must deploy guides equipped with walkie-talkies and other emergency response equipment to respond to any kind of eventualities," the minister said.

D'sthala search ops: Workers say wages up to ₹2L unpaid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Months after the special investigation team (SIT) wrapped up the search operation linked to the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case, labourers and equipment providers engaged for the operation are still awaiting payment.

Men and machinery were deployed across nearly 17 locations in and around Dharmasthala as part of the SIT probe into allegations made by former sanitation worker CN Chinnayya. Chinnayya approached police claiming that mass burials took place in the region. Following his complaint, a case was registered at Dharmasthala police station on July 4, 2025.

Amid growing public attention surrounding the allegations, govt constituted an SIT on July 19 to investigate the claims.

The search operation conducted between late July and mid-August involved earthmovers, labourers and temporary infrastructure at multiple sites. However, those who participated in the operation now allege that dues amounting to nearly Rs 2 lakh remain unpaid. An earthmover owner said he was contacted through the local panchayat, and his machine was used continuously from July 29 to Aug 12.

FUTILE EFFORT: A file photo of the SIT conducting an excavation

"We were told payments would be processed later, but even now I have not received the money. Whenever we contact the panchayat, officials said they are coordinating with the ZP and expect the funds to come from SIT. I also approached the SIT's local office, but nothing has happened yet," he said.

According to officials, around 20 labourers were engaged in excavation work, though not all were deployed every day. Pending payments reportedly include nearly Rs 1 lakh towards labour wages, Rs 24,000 for materials such as sheets and nets, and Rs 71,500 for earthmover charges. Sources said the gram panchayat forwarded the bills to the zilla panchayat, which in turn reportedly sent them to the SIT. However, the ZP is understood to have maintained that its regular development funds could not be used since the excavation was part of a criminal investigation and not a civic development project. Responding to the issue, senior IPS officer Pronab Mohanty, who heads the SIT, said the investigating agency had not officially received any request or demand.

"We are an investigating agency. If we have to pay, we will pay. Unless I receive anything in writing, what can I say? I have not received any demand from anyone," he said.

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"You will always be fondly remembered for your noble vision that touched the lives of countless Individuals, your teachings, philosophy, courage and undying spirit will continue to live on forever".
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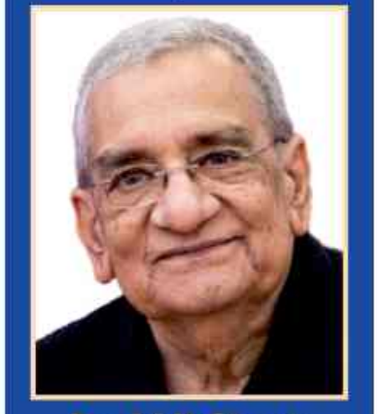
Dr. Ravi Prakash, Sabena, Rupali, Shefali, Family & Friends

5th Anniversary Remembrance



Dr. V R Sheth
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6th Year Remembrance

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Shree Sai Dental Care
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& family members

10th year anniversary
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I got over 53 offers after Su From So, but accepted only nine: Shaneel

In Su From So changed the lives of many of us in the team. Within the first few months after the film released, I got more than 53 offers

'Filmmaking is never about one person - it's collaborative'

ARJUN RAMPAL

'Aditya Dhar empowered everyone to contribute fearlessly in Dhurandhar'

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THE SHEEP DETECTIVE

Should you watch it?

Review in short

Conversational drama that digs deep but struggles to engage

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Inspired by rise of Vijay's TVK, JD(S) weighs reboot with Nikhil in the lead

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TOI

FAMILY MATTERS: While some want Nikhil Kumaraswamy to revive JD(S) by reconnecting with youngsters, others believe allying with BJP will pay off as HD Kumaraswamy could be projected as the CM face of NDA

Bengaluru: The rapid rise of C Vijay Joseph's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in Tamil Nadu has triggered a fresh revival debate within JD(S), with sections of the party now pushing for a stronger regional identity and reduced dependence on BJP ahead of the 2028 assembly elections.

Sources say TVK's ability to rapidly mobilise regional sentiment and attract the attention of youngsters despite being a relatively new political force has become a talking point. Some believe JD(S) can attempt a similar reinvention by repositioning itself as a Karnataka-first regional outfit focused on agrarian issues, regional aspirations and Vokkaliga consolidation.

The discussions mark a significant shift within JD(S), which allied with BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to consolidate anti-Congress votes especially in Old Mysuru region. While the alliance delivered some electoral gains, concerns have grown internally over JD(S) gradually losing its distinct political identity.

"Many feel JD(S) was strongest when it projected itself as an independent regional force rather than a part of a national coalition," a senior JD(S) functionary said. "TVK's emergence has reinforced the belief that strong regional messaging and local identity politics still have political space in southern states."

JD(S) is now overhauling its organisational structure by reshuffling office-bearers and appointing new spokespersons to strengthen public outreach and improve communication with voters.

As part of the revival exercise, the party is increasingly looking at Nikhil Kumaraswamy to reconnect with younger voters and urban Vokkaliga communities. Party brass believe his political lineage and film background could help JD(S) build a fresh narrative, although some admit comparisons with Vijay's popularity are limited. Sources said discussions within JD(S) are also centred around revamping the party structure, promoting young faces and sharpening issue-based politics.

The party is also learnt to be exploring the possibility of roping in political strategist Prashant Kishor in an advisory role to help redesign its messaging and organisational structure and help it expand beyond its traditional Old Mysuru strongholds. Another factor driving the internal rethink is the party's attempt to regain sections of minority support that had historically backed JD(S) and Congress in Karnataka.

Loss of distinctiveness

Political analyst MN Patil said regional parties that lose ideological distinctiveness often struggle to retain loyal social coalitions. "The BJP alliance may provide immediate electoral benefits, but JD(S) also faces the challenge of preserving its separate political space and cadre confidence," he said.

Not all on board

But not everyone in JD(S) supports distancing themselves from BJP. Some believe the alliance remains necessary for the party's survival in urban centres and Lingayat-dominated regions in north Karnataka where JD(S) remains organisationally weak.

They expect HD Kumaraswamy to emerge as the face of the NDA alliance in the 2028 polls, especially with Karnataka BJP facing a serious leadership crisis. They say this could make the alliance a potent force against Congress, which is expected to face strong anti-incumbency by then.

For now, JD(S) functionaries publicly maintain that the alliance with BJP remains intact, and that any decision on altering the arrangement would be taken closer to the assembly elections.

IT firms may push back on flexi work hour rules

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Getty Image for representation

NOT FEASIBLE: Some firms have asked for 12-hour working days but the govt has rejected them

Bengaluru: The labour department is preparing for a fresh tussle with the IT-BT industry as companies are likely to seek exemptions from the Centre's newly notified 48-hour weekly flexi work cap under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions code.

The sector has already received a five-year exemption under the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and officials believe the sector may view fixed flexi-hour regulations as incompatible with its work culture and project-driven operations.

Santosh Lad, labour minister, said the govt is not inclined to dilute work-hour protections for the sector. "We received requests from companies for 11 to 12 working hours per day but have rejected them outright," Lad told **TOI**. "The Centre's flexi hours notification has already been adopted in the state, and we do not foresee any concerns with it."

The department is expected to hold a meeting later this week to finalise rules and prescribe penalties for violations.

Officials said the govt, which introduced flexible work week provisions through amendments to the Factories Act in 2023, will now frame rules in line with the central notification. The earlier amendment enabled extended daily shifts for a mobile phone manufacturing company in the state. But they said companies seeking approval for flexible work schedules would have to comply with stricter conditions.

"We will add mandatory requirements such as dormitories, canteen and health facilities if companies or industries are looking to increase the number of hours per day and reduce workdays," officials said, adding that inspections would be conducted before approvals are granted. "IT-BT companies are also expected to seek exemptions from these flexi work hour rules, as has been the case with other labour laws," officials said.

ANI

SEEKING BENEFITS: CM Siddaramaiah met with representatives and seers of the Valmiki community in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Six panchayats from state win national awards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Six gram panchayats from Karnataka, five from Udupi and one from Bengaluru Urban districts, won cash awards in various categories under the National Panchayat Awards 2025 announced by the Union govt.

Rural development and panchayat raj minister Priyank Kharge congratulated award-winning gram panchayats and said Karnataka has emerged as one of the top-performing states in the country.

A total of 42 gram panchayats from across India were shortlisted for the awards. Mudradi GP in Hebri taluk, Udupi, emerged on top in the 'Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods' category and won a cash award of Rs 1 crore.

Vandse GP in Kundapura taluk secured second prize in 'Healthy Panchayat' category, Halanayakanahalli GP in Bengaluru won the second prize in 'Child-Friendly Panchayat' category, and Madamakki GP in Hebri taluk won second prize in 'Water-Sufficient Panchayat' category. All won a cash award of Rs 75 lakh each.

Sanuru GP in Karkala taluk won third prize in 'Self-Reliant Panchayat in Infrastructure' and Hakladi GP in Kundapura taluk secured third prize in 'Socially Just and Safe Panchayat' category which carried a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh each.

Fees for land records revised

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: To remove ambiguity and ensure uniformity in fee collection, the state govt has revised charges levied by the survey, settlement and land records (SSLR) department for copies of official records.

A circular issued by the commissioner of SSLR said field offices had been facing confusion over the rates applicable for different categories of records, necessitating the revision. The revised fee structure standardises charges across all subordinate offices in the state.

Under the revised structure, copies of atlas records, kharab extracts, irrigation-related details, lake and irrigation mahazar records, and boundary sketches for each survey or hissa number will cost Rs 35 per copy. Copies of map records will cost Rs 10, while akarbandh copies will cost Rs 20.

The department also revised charges for certified copies of orders. Copies up to 100 words will cost Rs 10, and every additional 100 words or part thereof will attract another Rs 10. If maps are attached to the order, an additional Rs 35 fee will be charged for each survey or hissa number.

Copies of akarpatrike books, allocation books, reclassification books, field books, layout plans, and urban survey records have also been brought under the revised fee structure. Officials have been directed to collect fees strictly as per the revised rates with immediate effect.

BJP campaign on reservation

BJP will launch a statewide public awareness campaign against the state govt for "rolling back" enhanced reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) introduced by the previous BJP govt. Former CM and MP Basavaraj Bommai accused the Congress govt of doing "great injustice" to SC, ST and OBC communities. He said his govt had raised SC reservation from 15% to 17% and ST reservation from 3% to 7%, benefiting thousands of students with additional engineering and medical seats. That hike had taken overall quota above the 50% cap set by Supreme Court. TNN

Site to be decided after study in Oct

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The race between Bengaluru South district and Nelamangala for the city's second airport will continue till Oct at least, with the state govt awaiting a techno-feasibility study before taking a final call.

The issue gained momentum after the civil aviation ministry scrapped the proposed Hosur airport project in neighbouring Tamil Nadu earlier this year. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar has since indicated that Bengaluru South, earlier known as Ramanagara, could emerge as the preferred site. This has put the Nelamangala proposal, reportedly backed by home minister G Parameshwara and industries minister MB Patil, in focus.

B'LURU 2ND AIRPORT

Industries department officials told TOI that Singapore-based Meinhardt-KP-MG has been shortlisted for a nearly Rs 5-crore contract to conduct the five-month study. It will evaluate airspace availability, passenger demand and land development costs before the final site is chosen.

"Three sites have been shortlisted: Chudahalli and Somanahalli on Kanakapura Road in South Bengaluru, and another site on the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road stretch," officials said. "Some 4,500 acres have been identified at each location. Traffic connectivity and overall viability are being studied."

Officials in Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd and Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board are divided over the two regions. While some favour Nelamangala due to proposed projects such as KWIN and ITIR phase 2, others argue Bengaluru South has enough land for airport-linked industrial and residential growth.

Yatnal seeks probe into waste tenders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Expelled BJP legislator **Basangouda Patil Yatnal** has written to the Lokayukta and chief secretary seeking a detailed investigation into alleged irregularities, favouritism and suspected fraud in integrated solid waste management tenders awarded for North and South packages in Bengaluru.

Yatnal, who presents Bijapur City, alleged irregularities in the land acquisition process, transfer of chief engineers overseeing the tender process, revision of bid conditions to favour a particular company, violations of Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, and procedural lapses in the tender.

He said the detailed project report prepared by a consultant had estimated the tipping fee at Rs 1,398 per tonne. But the consultant was later changed without following KTPP rules, resulting in significantly inflated cost estimates.

He also said the third tender notification was not published in newspapers, technically disqualified bidders were later declared eligible, and the final bid was accepted at over 19% above estimates despite finance department norms requiring re-tendering if bids exceed 10%. He urged the Lokayukta to investigate the entire tender process and penalise officials responsible.

Dedicated cycle lanes mandatory on roads

Bengaluru: The govt Tuesday notified amended Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules, 2026, introducing a new set of road design regulations aimed at improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists across the state.

The new rules mandate dedicated cycle tracks on all roads with speed limits of 30kmph and above. Such tracks should be developed on arterial and sub-arterial roads with adequate right of way, as well as along routes connecting residential areas with schools, workplaces, public transport hubs and other major activity centres.

The notification says cycle tracks "shall be physically segregated from motorised traffic on roads with higher vehicular speeds and are to be kept encroachment free including parking, vending and other obstructions".

"In places where physical segregation is unfeasible, clearly marked and continuous cycle lanes shall be provided or shared paths shall be developed for use of both pedestrians and cyclists, or traffic calming measures shall be implemented to regulate vehicle speeds below 30kmph," it states.

A maximum speed limit of 25kmph has been prescribed around schools, although speeds of up to 40kmph may be permitted on highways adjoining educational institutions, subject to adequate warning signage. The rules mandate provision of a clear 2.5m-wide footpath around schools. Across the state, footpaths must be at least 1.5m wide, and their demolition during road widening projects should be considered only as a last resort.

If violations of road design rules result in death or disability, the implementing agency or contractor could face fines of up to Rs 1 lakh. For motorists, penalties for violations begin at Rs 1,000 for a first offence, increasing to Rs 5,000. TNN

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Platform)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No.BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1088 for Replacement of existing HT/LT Overhead line by HT Covered Conductor / LT AB Cable in Channapatna Rural Sub division of Ramanagara Division. Bid Documents available: 13.05.2026 onwards. Last date for Bid Submission: 30 days from the date of Publication. Opening of Bid Document: 31st day from the date of Publication. The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHS/ENG/SKILLLAB/PMCSERVICES/2025-26(135631) Date: 11/05/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Project Management Consultancy Service for the work of Establishment of 6 advanced modern skill laboratories across the Karnataka State including Design, Supply & Installation processes along with required modification/ constructions in the existing building with Interiors, HVAC, Network & Electrical works on Turn Key Basis. More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2026-27/SE0034/CALL-2

1	Tender document available for download	11-05-2026, 16:53 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	15-05-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
3	Last date for Receipt of Tender	20-05-2026, 15:00 Hrs.
4	Opening of Technical Bid	21-05-2026, 15:30 Hrs.
5	Opening of Financial Bid	22-05-2026, 16:00 Hrs.
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Registrar
DIPR/CP/612/AKAR/2026-27

SUVARNA AROGYA SURAKSHA TRUST
(Department of Health & Family Welfare)
Arogya Soudha, 7th Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-23.
Ph: 080-22536200 e-mail: directorsast@gmail.com, estsast@gmail.com

No: SAST/ADM/TEND/2/2025-ADM Date: 11.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sub: Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust invites Tender for hiring of rental vehicle on monthly / daily / Airport pick & drop

Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka registered under the Indian Trust Act of 1882 is implementing various Government Health Schemes. For the successful implementation of Schemes, the Trust seeks to hire the services of rental vehicle on monthly / daily / Airport pick & drop. Bids have to be submitted on the KPP Portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home **from 13.05.2026.** The last date for submission of bids in the e-Procurement portal is **on 27.05.2026 upto 5.30 p.m.**

Sd/-
Director(Operations)
Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/618/MAA/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, HAL Airport Division,
1st cross, MEG Layout, Akash Nagar, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru - 560 048

No.BECC/EE/HAL/TN/01/2026-27 Dated: 12-05-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Short Term)
(Through kpp.Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, K R Pura Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Tenderers shall be registered in Bengaluru East City Corporation /CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/ any State or Central Govt. organization. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Estimate Cost in lakhs/EMD amount in Rs./Period of Completion
1	Comprehensive development of drains, footpath and Asphalting to HAL ADA road, Nagappa reddy layout, Abbaiah reddy layout And Surrounding area pertaining to KR Puram Constituency. Estimate Cost : **Rs.286.00 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.4,29,000/-. Period of Completion : 4 Months.**

Calendar of events:
1. Last date of submission queries : **22-05-2026 within 3.00 P.M**
2. Date & time for Pre Bid Meeting : **22-05-2026 at 3.00 P.M**
3. Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **27-05-2026 Upto 4:00 P.M.**
4. Date & Time for Opening Technical bid : **29-05-2026 at 4.30 P.M**
5. Date & Time for Opening Financial bid : **30-05-2026 at 4.30 P.M**
6. Validity of Tenders : **120 Days**

Bid document may be referred for other terms and conditions and any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published & notified only through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** or Contact KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HAL Airport, Zone-2, BECC

War in the air: Incense sticks, perfumes set to get costlier

Vindhya.Pabolu
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Bengaluru: Prices of diethyl phthalate (DEP), a chemical derivative of crude oil imported largely from Iran, have surged from Rs 100 per kg in Jan to Rs 180 per kg. DEP is a key ingredient in perfumes and agarbattis as it acts as a solvent and fixative, helping fragrance oils dissolve properly and retain aroma for a longer duration. Manufacturers say the increase in DEP prices has directly impacted both the perfume and incense stick industries.

Apart from DEP, prices of bamboo sticks, charcoal powder, plastic caps and joss powder have also increased significantly. Industry representatives said lamination and packaging costs have nearly doubled, forcing many companies to look for alternatives such as TEC, benzoyl compounds and paper-based packaging solutions. Overall production costs in the industry have gone up by 20% to 30%, with some manufacturers already increasing retail prices by 10% to 15% and others reducing the quantity in perfume bottles.

At the recent 12th International Agarbatti and Perfume Expo 2026, organised by Incense Media, industry players said the raw material prices have gone up by an average 20% to 30% owing to the Iran-US conflict. Praveen Goyal, head of operations, Incense Media, said: "With 1,000 agarbattis and perfume industries located in the state, the industry is under pressure as raw material costs, including fragrances, wood powder, charcoal and packaging materials, have risen by 20% to 30% in the last three-four months, forcing manufacturers to increase prices by 10% to 15%. The prices of raw materials have gone up."

Yash H Buddhdev, director, JP Perfumery Works, said: "Good-quality odourless wood powder imported mainly from Vietnam, used in premium incense sticks, has become expensive because of higher duties, container shortages and global disruptions. Prices of binder materials, fixatives and several chemicals have increased by 20% to 40% in recent months. Despite that, we have limited our hike to 5% to 10% as we do not want customers to bear the entire burden. We expect costs to stabilise in the next three-four months."

Surendra Sipani, head of finance, ITC Ltd, said: "We are exploring alternate solutions, different chemicals like TEC, to see if we can come out stronger with an alternate formulation. As for the war, we do not know how long it will continue. If we all work together towards alternate solutions — not just in fragrance but also in laminate, which has doubled in price, and shift towards paper packaging — we can find a way through."

Dipen K Haria, managing partner, Balaji Agarbatti Company from Prakshnagar, said: "From bamboo sticks to powder, perfume, packaging, plastic caps and shrink wraps — logistics plays a major role in every single element of this industry. The only way forward is without compromising quality. Rather than reducing quantity, we must hold the line on quality at every point. Price rise is inevitable, but the challenge is that many people will not adhere to them. The real answer lies in reducing costs smartly, educating the customer on value, and maintaining healthy competition."

Coffee fragrance is new trend

Dipen Haria, partner at Balaji Agarbatti Company, said: "Gen Z in particular tends to experiment more, often spending time at the start of the month and trying multiple products and fragrances. Because of this evolving demand, the industry is also innovating with new offerings such as coffee-based fragrances in incense and sprays, along with fruity notes like orange and pineapple."

Hardil H from JP Perfumery added: "Consumers today are experimenting with fragrances based on their mood and personality. While some prefer floral and sweet notes for peace and calmness, others choose woody or earthy fragrances depending on the aura they connect with. Younger consumers are exploring multiple products and fragrance families."

Pvt schools' body opposes PM's online classes plan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The private schools' association has opposed the Prime Minister's suggestion to take schooling online, like during the pandemic, to tide over concerns inflicted by the war in West Asia.

"For over 500 days, schools were shut during Covid-19 pandemic. We are yet to recover from the impact it had on our children and their learning levels. Schooling should not be held online, it should be physical," said D Shashi Kumar, secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka. "Online classes could work for higher education. But it is definitely not suitable for primary schools," he added.

Educationist Niranjanaradhya VP also condemned the recommendation. "Education is not just a passive process of delivering information in a textbook through an online screen. Rather, education is a holistic process of social development, play, interaction with classmates, creativity and building human values," he said.

"In addition, due to the adverse effects of online education during the Covid pandemic, children are still suffering from serious problems such as mental stress, loneliness, learning disabilities, vision impairment, mobile addiction and social distancing. We have not been able to find solutions to many problems even today. Many countries have banned and regulated the use of digital technology in education. The PM has given a short-sighted suggestion," he claimed.

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

AI CANNOT REPLACE MORAL WEIGHT OF DOCTOR: VICE PRESIDENT RADHAKRISHNAN AT AIIMS CONVOCATION

UNION MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES AI-ENABLED SYSTEMS FOR HYPER-LOCAL WEATHER FORECASTS

Introspect on reputational cost of aiding Pak during Op Sindoor, India tells China

Beijing Had Confirmed It Provided Tech Aid To Pak In Conflict Following India's Op Sindoor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid reports that China provided tech assistance to Pakistan in the military conflict that followed India's Op Sindoor last year, the govt urged China to introspect about the likely reputational cost of backing terrorist infrastructure. The ministry of external affairs (MEA) said that the reports had only corroborated what was already known.

"Operation Sindoor was a precise, targeted and calibrated response to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying state sponsored terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its behest," said ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to queries at a media briefing about China's support to Pakistan.

"It is for nations who consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," Jaiswal added.

Reports from Beijing said last week that China had confirmed it provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the conflict with India in May last year. The confirmation was based on an interview aired by China's state broadcaster CCTV with Zhang Heng, an engineer from the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's (AVIC) Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute, a key developer of China's advanced fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicle design.

Zhang Heng had provided technical support to Pakistan during the four-day war last May, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported, quoting CCTV. Pakistan's air force operates a fleet of Chinese-made J-10CE jets, produced by an AVIC subsidiary.

"At the support base, we frequently heard the roar of fighter jets taking off and the constant wail of air-raid sirens. By late morning, in May, the temperature was already approaching 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). It was a real ordeal for us, both mentally and physically," the Aviation Industry Corporation engineer said.

Ready to counter any cross-border threats: Navy chief-designate

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New Delhi: In response to Pakistan Field Marshal Asim Munir warning India against any "future misadventure", Indian Navy chief-designate Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan has said that "misadventure does not come anywhere or anytime from India" and asserted that the country is ready to counter and quell any "misadventure" from across the border.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan, who will take over reins of Navy after Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi's retirement on May 31, said, "...India has always been in a responding kind of mode. Such actions come from across the border. People can say what they want, but as far as we are concerned, India will remain prepared."

At a defence event organised by Bramha Research Foundation in Mumbai on Monday, the Vice Admiral highlighted that the country has been a victim of terrorism for years, and that Operation Sindoor was targeted specifically at terror camps and terrorists involved in Pahalgam terror attack. The country cannot accept terrorist activities, especially when they emanate from foreign soil, he said, pointing out that Operation Sindoor is continuing.

RSS morning drill makes debut in Jadavpur varsity's 'Red Fort'

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The RSS shakha at Jadavpur University on Tuesday morning

Kolkata: Jadavpur University (JU), one of the incubation centres for left-liberal ideas in Bengal, saw its first RSS morning drill on Tuesday within days of BJP taking office in Bengal.

The entry into JU — where students' unions have always been controlled by left- and far-left-leaning organisations — signals a remarkable rise of RSS in Bengal, where the organisation has grown from 1,350 'shakhas' in 2012 to 4,325 'shakhas' in 2026.

Like JU, most prominent campuses across the city, including Presidency, have never had a right-wing union. JU has always elected left- and ultra-left-leaning unions and even "less red" unions, like the one run by Jadavpur University Students' Forum, who were ideologically opposed to right-wing politics. In 1996, the JU union in the arts faculty came under the control of JUSF, which was an offshoot of the Independents' Consolidation movement that spilled over from Presidency.

Twenty permanent and contractual staff members of JU, all campus residents, took part in the one-hour morning drill from 6.30 am behind Aurobindo Bhavan. The first 40 minutes were dedicated to physical exercise and yoga and the rest to a 'Bauddhik' (intellectual) session on worshipping the motherland with the goal of establishing India as a 'Vishwa Guru'.

"History was created today as we started an RSS shakha at JU. I am thrilled. JU is the first institution in Bengal to have an RSS shakha on its campus," said Palas Maji, an RSS karyakarta and an employee in JU's physics department.

JNU '17 protesters back for court-ordered 'punishment'

Sugandha.Jha1@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Simone Zoya Khan's routine is set. She reaches Jawaharlal Nehru University's administrative block at 9am, signs an attendance register, and picks up a booklet that outlines 2017 UGC regulations. After reading for a while, she sorts through files, traces documents and does other clerical work. Her work is done by 5pm.

But Khan is no student or official at JNU. Nine years ago, as a PhD student at the university and vice-president of JNU Students' Union (JNUSU), she had raised slogans outside the same administrative block, violating the very same UGC rules she now reads through every day.

Currently a faculty member at a private university in Visakhapatnam, Khan is serving a 15-day "community service" punishment linked to the 2017-18 JNUSU protests over compulsory attendance, hostel fee hike issues, disciplinary actions and other policy changes. The service was ordered by Delhi high court in March last year while hearing an appeal filed by the former JNUSU office-bearers against a 2018 contempt conviction.

A division bench accepted their unconditional apology and agreed to remit the punishment on the condition that they render two weeks of free service. They were to render this service in the administration department of an academic institution or at JNU, as directed by the university registrar. The court noted that while the students' conduct during the protests could not be condoned, a contempt conviction could have "grave consequences" on their careers and become "life-long". "Subject to the above condition being fulfilled, the punishment awarded shall stand remitted," the March 27, 2025 order said.

TVK MLA who won by 1 vote barred from floor test

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@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Madras High Court has restrained Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam MLA Srinivasa Sethupathi—who won from Tirupattur constituency in Tamil Nadu by one vote—from participating in the floor test scheduled on Wednesday.

"The floor test is not an ordinary legislative sitting. Participation in a floor test may determine the survival or fall of a govt. If the TVK MLA participates in such proceedings and his vote becomes decisive, the consequence may travel far beyond the constituency and affect the constitutional governance of the state," said a vacation bench of Justices L Victoria Gowri and N Senthil Kumar on Tuesday.

India will need ₹23-25 lakh cr investment in 20 yrs for 100 GW of N-energy: TERI

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India will need investments of Rs 23-25 lakh crore over the next two decades to install 100 gigawatts (GW) of nuclear power capacity by 2047 to support its energy security and net-zero goals, according to a report by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

While large nuclear reactors will remain the backbone of the country's nuclear expansion plan, small modular reactors (SMRs) are being viewed as a flexible complementary technology for industrial decarbonisation, captive power and remote locations. The report said SMRs could also support hydrogen production, desalination and industrial heat applications.

"Emerging technologies such as Small Modular Reactors open up new possibilities for strengthening energy security, supporting industrial growth, and advancing clean energy goals," said Vibha Dhawan, director general, TERI. As per the report, large reactors of 700 MW and above such as pressurised heavy water reactors, light water reactors and fast breeder reactors will remain central to achieving the target. India's current nuclear power capacity stands at 8.8 GW from 25 operating reactors across seven sites, and is expected to rise to 22 GW by 2032.

Govt last year passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, a major legislative reform aimed at enabling private sector participation in the nuclear energy sector.

Kukis call to stop Manipur CM's visit to Churachandpur

Churachandpur: United Kuki National Army has opposed a May 15 visit by Manipur CM Yumnam Khemchand to Churachandpur, appealing to the public not to allow him to cross what it called the "frontline" demarcating hill and valley areas. The move follows a joint decision by UKNA and Zomi Re-unification Org (ZRO) to boycott the CM's visit and reaffirmation of their demand for Union Territory (UT) status for Kuki-Zo hill areas in the state scarred by over three years of ethnic conflict. TNN

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

M. TECH. ADMISSION NOTICE
Session 2026-27
Website: www.caluniv.ac.in & www.caluniv-ucsta.net

Applications are invited for admission in following M.Tech Programme:

- 2 Yr. M. Tech. Programme - 15 Subjects.
- 2 Yr. M. Tech. Programme Section-B for working professional - 4 Subjects.

Date of Online submission of applications: 11-05-2026 to 20-05-2026.
For details visit above websites

Dr. Amit Ray, Secretary
UCSTA, C.U.

11001/48/2627
NABAKRUSHNA CHOUDHURY CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
BHUBANESWAR-751013, ODISHA
TELEPHONE: 0674-2300471, E-mail: ncdsbbsr1987@gmail.com
Website: https://ncds.odisha.gov.in/

Applications are invited for the post of **"Director"** in the Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), Bhubaneswar (an ICSSR Research Institute in collaboration with Government of Odisha).

Last Date of Submission of Application: Applications along with detailed curriculum vitae along with one passport size photograph superscribing the envelope 'Application for the post of **Director**' must reach the Secretary, Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar by speed post/ hand on or before 5.30pm of **12.06.2026.** No application shall be received after this time.

Details regarding the post and application form is available at our website: **https://ncds.odisha.gov.in/ pc.odisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
SECRETARY
OIPR-11001/11018/1/26-27/0001

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

Centralized Admission Process (CAP-2026)
Rajasthan Engineering Admission Process (REAP-2026)
Centre for Electronic Governance (CEG)

Information regarding admissions in the first year of B.E./B.Tech., B.Plan and B.Arch. course for the session 2026-27 through REAP-2026 for the candidates of Rajasthan State and out of Rajasthan State in Technical programmes in constituent/affiliated Engineering Colleges of State Funded Universities of Rajasthan.

COURSES →	B.E. / B. Tech.	B. Arch.	B. Plan
MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY	Passed 10+2 examination with Physics/ Mathematics/Chemistry/ Computer Science/ Electronics/Information Technology/ Biology/ Informatics Practices/ Biotechnology/ Technical Vocational subject/Agriculture/ Engineering Graphics/ Business Studies/Entrepreneurship, Agriculture stream (for Agriculture Engineering) **(Combination of the subjects as per the AICTE approval handbook page 107 table 8.4).** Obtained at least 45% marks (40% marks in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) in the above subjects taken together. **OR** Passed D. Voc. Stream (NCrF level 4) in the same or allied sector.	Passed the 10+2 scheme of examination with at least 50% aggregate marks and also at least 50% marks in aggregate in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics of the 10+2 level examination. **OR** Passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 50% marks in aggregate. The candidate needs to qualify an aptitude test in Architecture conducted by the COA/NTA (JEE main paper 2A).	Passed 10+2 examination with Maths along with two subjects*, obtained at least 45% marks (40% in case of candidates belonging to reserved category) in the qualifying Examination. **OR** Passed D.Voc. Stream in the same or allied sector. * Physics/ Mathematics / Chemistry/ Computer Science/Electronics/Information Technology/ Biology/ Informatics Practices/ Biotechnology/ Technical Vocational subject/ Agriculture/ Engineering Graphics/ Business Studies/ Entrepreneurship.
PRIORITY	1st Candidates under Category-A as per the sports quota policy and priority on the basis of admission as per priority no. 2/3/4 2nd Rank obtained in JEE (Mains) 2026* 3rd Percentile obtained in class 12th (not covered in priority 2nd) 4th Percentage obtained in D. Voc in Engineering & Technology approved by State Government. *For Candidates having JEE (Mains) 20 Percentile score or more.	1st Candidates under Category-A as per the sports quota policy and priority on the basis of admission as per priority no. 2/3 2nd Percentile obtained in Class-12 (50% weightage) + Higher score of Aptitude Test-2026 (50% weightage) 3rd Percentage obtained in Diploma (50% weightage) + Higher score of Aptitude Test-2026 (50% weightage)	1st Candidates under Category-A as per the sports quota policy and priority on the basis of admission as per priority no. 2/3/4 2nd Rank obtained in JEE (Mains) 2026* 3rd Percentile obtained in class 12th (not covered in priority 2nd) 4th Percentage obtained in D. Voc in Engineering & Technology approved by State Government. *For Candidates having JEE (Mains) 20 Percentile score or more.

Registration fee for online application cum Registration form is Rs 885/- (750/-+18%GST), Option filling dates, Website and helpline number details are:

Dates	B.E. / B.Tech.	B.Plan	B.Arch.
Starting date for filling Online Application Form with Registration Fees	13/05/2026	13/05/2026	17/06/2026
Last date for online deposition of Application cum Registration Fees	10/06/2026	10/06/2026	01/07/2026
Last date to submit online registration and application form	12/06/2026	12/06/2026	03/07/2026
Last date for the option form / choice filling	26/06/2026	26/06/2026	14/07/2026
Website	www.reaprajasthan.com	www.reaprajasthan.com	www.barchrajasthan.com
Helpline No.	+918279183303, +918764818563 (9:30 AM to 6 PM in Working Days)		

Online Reporting: - The process of online reporting has been introduced for the convenience of the candidates. Candidates can do online reporting **without being present in person** at the allotted institute by depositing the seat acceptance fee of Rs. 10,000/- through the REAP-2025 portal to secure a seat in the allotted institute and to participate in the further process. To take admission in the final allotted institute by the candidate, he/she will have to present physically to report within the stipulated time period and get the original documents checked. The seat acceptance fee will be adjusted in the institute fee.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2592

CONVENOR, CAP-2026
Address: Centre for Electronic Governance, Jhalana Doongari, Jaipur-302004

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
Employees' State Insurance Corporation
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
मुख्यालय / Headquarters
पंचदीप भवन / Panchdeep Bhawan
सी.आई.जी. मार्ग, नई दिल्ली – 110002
C.I.G. Marg, New Delhi – 110002
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Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) invites applications from talented, innovative and dynamic candidates in the field of Information Technology, Actuarial, Finance, Medical Services, Property Management and Social Media etc. for Engagement of Individual Consultants "Under the ESIC policy for Engagement of **Young Professional/ Consultant Grade-I/Consultant Grade-II/Senior Consultants**" on Contractual basis.

The online Portal submission of application will open on 14.05.2026 (12 O' clock midnight) till 04.06.2026 (11:59 PM) on the ESIC website **www.esic.gov.in**.

The detailed advertisement notice regarding Engagement of Young Professional/Consultant Grade-I/Consultant Grade-II/Senior Consultant is available on **www.esic.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Joint Director

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
बेंगलूरु क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

सार्वजनिक सूचना

बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए के अंतर्गत निदेश – श्री गुरु राघवेंद्र सहकारा बैंक नियमिता, बेंगलुरु – अवधि बढ़ाना

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए के अंतर्गत दिनांक 02 जनवरी 2020 के निदेश सं. DoS.CO.UCB.BSD-III.D-2/12.23.283/2019-20 द्वारा श्री गुरु राघवेंद्र सहकारा बैंक नियमिता, बेंगलुरु को 10 जुलाई 2020 को कारोबार की समाप्ति तक छह माह की अवधि के लिए निदेश जारी किए थे, जिसे पिछली बार दिनांक 02 फरवरी 2026 के निदेश सं. DOR.MON/D-58/12.23.283/2025-26 द्वारा बढ़ाया गया था। भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक इस बात से संतुष्ट है कि जनहित में उक्त निदेश की परिचालन अवधि को 10 मई 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति से आगे बढ़ाया जाना आवश्यक है।

2. तदनुसार, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35ए की उप-धारा (1) के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, एतद्द्वारा उक्त निदेश की वैधता अवधि को अगले तीन महीने की अवधि के लिए, 10 मई 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति से 10 अगस्त 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति तक बढ़ाता है, जो कि समीक्षाधीन होगा।

3. संदर्भाधीन निदेश के अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

बेंगलूरु **हस्ता./-**
दिनांक: 13 मई 2026 **क्षेत्रीय निदेशक**

Directorate of Industries & Enterprise Promotion
Government of Uttar Pradesh

उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन निदेशालय, उत्तर प्रदेश, कानपुर
पत्रांक: 125 /औ0आ0अनु0-11/भू0आ0/2026-27 दिनांक: 08/05/2026

औद्योगिक भू-खण्डों/शेडों का ई-ऑक्शन जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से आवंटन हेतु सूचना

- एमएसएमई विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश के राजकीय औद्योगिक आस्थानों के रिक्त भूखंडो/शेडों का फॉरवर्ड ई-ऑक्शन पद्धति से जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से 99 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए आवंटन प्रारम्भ किया जा रहा है।
- भूखण्ड आवंटन हेतु बेस दरें पूर्वांचल एवं बुन्देलखण्ड, मध्यांचल तथा पश्चिमांचल हेतु क्रमशः रू. 2100, रू. 2625 तथा रू. 3150 प्रतिवर्ग मीटर निर्धारित है।
- आवंटन के नियम एवं शर्तें (निविदा, SOP एवं वर्क-फ्लो चार्ट) QR कोड में वर्णित है।
- वर्तमान में नवीन औद्योगिक आस्थान मऊ, रायबरेली व अलीगढ़ की जेम पोर्टल बिड प्रकाशित हो रही है और उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्य जनपदों में भी रिक्त भूखण्ड/शेडों के आवंटन हेतु बिड आगे प्रकाशित की जायेगी।
- रिक्त भूखण्ड/शेड की जानकारी www.iemsme.in व www.msme.up.gov.in एवं www.gem.gov.in पर प्राप्त की/देखी जा सकती है।

स्केन करें

के. विजयेंद्र पांडियन
आयुक्त एवं निदेशक, उद्योग
उत्तर प्रदेश, कानपुर

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JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM OF EDUCATORS
We are seeking qualified, passionate, and committed teachers for the following positions:
Walk in with updated resume
Primary: Hindi, Computer Science, English, Academic Coordinator, Social Studies
Middle School: Computer Science, English, Social Science, Hindi | Secondary: Mathematics, AI, Social Science | Non Academic: Transport manager, HR executive
APPLY
Graduate/Postgraduate with B.Ed (for Academic post). Proficiency in English and relevant experience is required.
hr.horamavu@chrysalishigh.com 95356 92157
hr.yelahanka@chrysalishigh.com 72594 04598

WE ARE HIRING! JOIN OUR TEAM
WE ARE LOOKING FOR STAFFS FOR OUR HOTEL & RESTAURANT AT GANDHINAGAR MAJESTIC & SADASHIVANAGAR
3 Star Boutique Business Hotel — ROOMS, RESTAURANT AND BANQUET HALLS
REQUIRED
- Stewards
- House Keeping
- KST Staff
- Bellboy
- Service Staff
- Night Security
- Sales & Marketing Manager
- South Indian Chef
- Chinese Chef's
- Tandoori Master

Walk-in for an Interview - 10am to 12 pm, with your Resume at
INDIES 365 HOTEL
No.3, 1st Main Road, Kalidasa Marg, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560 009.
FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT: 7338242200 / 6363399451

Chrysalis High MARQ — **WE ARE HIRING!**
JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM OF EDUCATORS
We are seeking qualified, passionate, and committed teachers for the following positions:
Walk in with updated resume
Daycare Teacher | Primary: English, Social Studies, Math, Science.
Middle School: English, Geography, History | Secondary: Geography
STEaM Mentor: Robotics Trainer | Math Lab In-charge
Science Lab In-charge
APPLY
Graduate/Postgraduate with B.Ed. (for academic posts). Proficiency in English and relevant experience are required.
hr.marq@chrysalishigh.com 89515 11406

WE ARE HIRING JOIN OUR TEAM
A reputed CBSE school in Kerala, Malappuram is looking for
- **Vice-Principal** — 15 years experience in CBSE school with 5 years as VP.
- **Head Mistress- Montessori** — 10 years experience in similar position.

Qualifications for both positions as per CBSE/ Government norms
Attractive salary and other perks
SEND YOUR CV TO: hr@mesputhanathani.in

An ICSE / ISC School in South Delhi requires
An Anglo-Indian Resident Principal
The Candidates should be post-graduate from a recognised university with B.Ed., to teach ICSE / ISC Examination Classes. The candidate should be above the age of 45 years.
Remuneration as per 7th Pay Commission, including perquisites, namely, semi-furnished residential accommodation etc.
Candidates with excellent communication skills in English, proficient in the use of computers and is able to deal with administrative matters with the Education Department and the Council will have an edge over others.
Preference will be given to those who have at least 10 years of teaching experience in the ICSE / ISC school of which at least 3 years in administration as a manager of a school.
Interested candidates may apply with complete bio-data along with self-attested copy of certificates / credentials and a passport size photograph within ten days from the date of advertisement to the following email address :-
angloindia@angloindia.in
Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.
Chairman

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

PRINCIPAL

WANTED PRINCIPAL Qualification LLM., Ph.D, TEACHING FACULTY Asst Prof Qualification LL.M Contact:JAI LAW COLLEGE BANGARPET Call: 7502329714/9788914726

TEACHER

Kasthurba Public School, Uttarahalli Rd, B'luru- 61 Reqs High School English & Pre-Primary NTT trained Teachers. Ph: 9481664735

Vijaya Bharathi School, T- Dasarahalli, B'luru- 57 Reqs Primary English Teacher & Pre-Primary NTT trained Teachers. Contact- 9557765699

SRI Guru Harkrishan High School, Ulsoor (Affiliated to State Board) Invites applications for the following positions. 1. Principal - Candidates with M.Ed. Degree. Additional certifications in School Administration or Leadership preferred. Min 7- 10 years of teaching experience, including 3- 5 years in an administrative or leadership role. Strong interpersonal and communication skills required. 2. Hindi Teacher (High School)- Qualification: M.A., B.Ed. Candidates may send their resume to: Mail:- sghkhs95@gmail.com WhatsApp: 81972 98044

WANTED-TEACHING-STAFF with 3-4 years of experience for school & PU college ,Kannada ,English Social science ,Mathematics, Physics ,History Economics, Music & dance .Pre-School teachers with NTT/ MTT Special educator Diploma in special education with BAPC & office staff with Accounting knowledge. Needed all Master Degree holders with BEd Mob : 9980777633 / 9980777933 jnanasangamaprathishtana@gmail.com

MOTHER Teresa Group of Schools (Kanakapura) is looking for passionate and dedicated Hindi & Science Teachers for High School to inspire young minds and shape the future. Contact 99861 64245 / 99163 87431

TEACH Grades 6-9 maths and science in J.P. Nagar 6th Phase. Shift: 3-5 PM, Mon-Fri. Seeking experienced candidates to join our team. ATTRACTIVE SALARY Call: 9916739098 / 9620722400

ENGLISH Trainers for Prerana Global Academy. Freshers/Exp(21-50) Relocating all India. Free Stay, Salary+ Inctv: 9741246900 / 7899806077

WANTED LADY Teachers-nursery and up to 5th std. For New Light International School, English medium Near Bagaluru-BK Halli. Blore 562149, call 8861323887

WANTED: Teachers in all subjects. Engineering Graduates can also apply. Ph. 9242484476, send Bio data to email: info16bfet@gmail.com

WANTED Headmistress, Clerk, Maths, Science, Socials Teachers for High School and Teachers for Primary.JP.Nagar 3rd Phase Contact: 9845042249

EUROKIDS NR Colony requires experienced Teachers, Freshers with NTT can Apply.Salary-10k-12k, Call: 74066 66161 / 99868 65123.

WANTED Qualified, Experienced LADY TEACHER
FOR NEW St. Josephs English School @ BTM II Stage, Blr- 76, to handle Nursery and Pri. Classes. Salary Nego. 8105285065.

NAMMA Ooru Global Schools (CBSE), Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli. Invites application from experienced, qualified, competent candidates for TGT(Maths,Science,IT), PGT(Maths,Biology), P.ET (Lady) and Montessori Teachers. Interested Candidates Mail to: Careers@Nammaoorugiobalschools.in . Mob: 8124669666

SUNRISE SCHOOL Requires Experienced Lady Teachers for Nursery, Primary & High School for-all Subjects (P.E Male) Coffee Board Layout, Hebbal, Call: 9008981637 Email id:- svsres21@gmail.com

REQD Female Primary Maths & EVS, Social & Hindi High School & PET Teacher. Contact Brilliant High School, HSR layout, 1st Sector, Call 080-22586941 / 6360610680.

REQUIRED Coordinators/Teachers with Good Communication skills for Eurokids.Interested Candidates Contact: 7090315131

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Apply or Walk-in @ SJES Medahalli, Old Madras Road, Bangalore-49 Call : 9606016670 hr@sjesinstitutions.ac.in

SREE SARASWATHI VIDYA MANDIRA
No.9, Vani Vilas Rd, VV Puram Bangalore-04, Ph: 080- 41277700/ 41324223
Website: www.ssvm.ac.in
Walk-in Interview from 11th to 16th MAY 2026 betwn 9.30 am & 3 pm
Requires Trained and Qualified TEACHERS for
1. NURSERY, SOCIAL STUDIES, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, HINDI & PE,
2. HEAD MISTRESS
For Channammanakere Achukattu Branch

SRI KRISHNA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (SKIT)
#57, Chimney Hills, Hesaraghatta Main Rd, Chikkabanavara PO. B'lore-90
Ph: 91487 60326.
Faculty & Staff Requirement
1. Associate Professor: CSE, AIML, ECE & VLSI Dept from PhD Holders Only.
2. Assistant Professors: Mech, CSE, AIML, ECE & VLSI Dept from M.Tech Holders Only.
3. Instructors/Foreman: CSE, AIML, ECE, VLSI, Civil & Mech Dept from Diploma or BE Holders Only.
Email your resumes to hr@skit.org.in

ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTANT

SR.ACCOUNTS Exec reqd for a Mfg.Co. at Bommasandra. Min.exp of 5-7 yrs in mfg industry with Experience in Tally. Mail: victor@expertindia.com Whatsapp 8884450706

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVES

TARGET Oriented Sales Exe, Min 3yrs Exp, 2 Wheeler, Good English. Salary 25k, Big Incent. Big Value Orders. 8884504422/ 8123243297 info@behlinnov.com

HRD & ADMINISTRATIVE

Required ADMIN ASSISTANT with Experience in Accounts/ Tally/ GST. Contact: "IRSHADS" 98458-41310/ Email: info@irshadsproperty.com

SENIOR / TOP MANAGERS

CAREER Offer For Retd/VRS Bank/ State, Central Govt Employees/ Business Man/ Home Mkrs @ Hotel Krishnam Udupi Kanakapura Rd 15th May 2026 on Friday: 8197273568

ASIA'S Biggest Co. Need Financial Advisors, Become Business Leaders. Incentives & Salary. Ex Retired, Govt Employee, Business Person, House Wife. Call: 6364688752

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LEGAL

ADVOCATE

WANTED-ADVOCATE for Real Estate Company hiring with 2–3 years' experience Location : #4921, 10th Floor, Highpoint - 4, Palace Road, old chalukya Bangalore - 560001. Contact : 9945222666 | Email : legal@sahassra.com

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

MARKETING

WANTED BUSINESS EXECUTIVES (Graduates Male / Female with 2 Wheelers Must & Experience in Media Field Preffered)
CUSTOMER CARE EXE.
TELECALLERS (Females with Good Communication Skills)
ADVERTISING CO. in Basveswarnagar Banglore is Looking For Dynamic Candidates Good Salary + Incentives. Call: 9845411113

MARKETING EXECUTIVES: for a Reputed Real Estate Firm in RT.Nagar. Full Time to Generate quality leads through performance Marketing & digital campaign for Premium Residential Project. Qualification: PUC/ Graduates. Exp: 1-4 yrs. Freshers with passion can apply. Strong Communication + Negotiation Skills. Fixed Salary: 20k + incentives. Call: 99866 73399.

OAKROAD Ventures Pvt Ltd, a Seasoned Spices & blends Co. seeks FMCG Distributors in Blore, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, & Calcutta. Women Mktg Managers & CRM's with Metro City Sales Exp. (online/offline) are encouraged to apply. 9480051410, vasanthamachaih@oakroad.industries/vasanth.machaiah@gmail.com

WALK IN

Walk-in- Interview
India's Leading Biggest Group
HSR Layout/ Koramangala Whitefield
Date: Saturday 16th May
Time:10 a.m. to 1p.m
Venue: West Fort Hotel, Rajajinagar, Bangalore.
- Team Leaders- Retired or Homemakers also can apply 30yrs to 60 yrs
- Financial Advisors-25yrs +SSLC Passed
- Sales Staff- Retired or Homemakers also can apply
- Others- Graduate, Freshers can also apply.

For interview: 6364563490

SALES

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WE ARE HIRING
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Are you confident, persuasive and passionate about sales? Join our growing real estate team!
Location: R R Nagar
Salary: Attractive salary + Incentives
Contact: 6361769530
Email: connect@ebrahmapragati.com

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

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REQUIRES
CONSULTANT- CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE
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CONSULTANT CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
M.Phil in Clinical Psychology with 3–5 years experience.
ECHO TECHNICIAN
B.SC\M.SC in CCT with 1–2 years experience.
Apply Immediately to : The Director (CEO)
Ph: 080-22024700, Extn 4490/4390 Mob: 8867155415
E-mail: hr@bbh.org.in baptisthospitalhr@gmail.com

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

ARCHITECTS

Required Architects
HOTEL DEVELOPMENT company seeks experienced architects. Relevant experience required (hospitality preferred). Must be willing to travel to Mangalore for site meetings. Apply with resume & portfolio. Call : 9008444587

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Contact Now: +91 80957 55855 / +91 80956 55755
Walk-in Interview Monday - Friday 10 AM – 2 PM
info@sriguruips.com www.sriguruips.com

MATERIALS & LOGISTICS

GENERAL

DTDC Requires Delivery Executive Bikers, Salary 18k +Incentive + Petrol. Jagadish 9845299777 Mail: jagadish@dtdc.com

OTHER VACANCIES

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

REQUIRED TELE MARKETING EXECUTIVE, FEMALE SALE EXECUTIVE, JEWELLERY BACK-END OPERATOR.
EXPERIENCED & Trained (min 3 Yrs) Person for the Posts for A Reputed Diamond Jewellery Manufacturer at Jayanagar, Bangalore. Fwd Resume and Details On: 9663066611. E-mail: anil@pinankis.com

HIRING - Salesman, BD, IT, HR, PR Event Manager, Accountant, Fundraising, Store in charge, for Convention center, Event Infrastructure, Corporate gifting, for NGO/ Real Estate/ Agriculture Freshers & Experienced candidates can apply. Call/WhatsApp: 9071712104 Send your CV to: hr@manphogroup.com

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- TELE COUNSELLOR (Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam Telugu, Hindi & Bengali)
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- ADMISSION MANAGER
- ADMISSION EXECUTIVE
- ADMISSION COUNSELLOR
- REGIONAL MANAGERS (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu, Kerala)
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Location: Bengaluru - WHITEFIELD
We are hiring personnel with relevant experience in Automobile Industry
Attractive Salary and Incentive.
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- TELECALLERS-5 — min 2 years experience
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Candidates with knowledge of English & Kannada speaking compulsory
e-mail CV to : branddirector@khtagencies.com

Urgently Wanted following:
DESIGN ENGINEER 2 to 4 years experience with BE in Mechanical Engineering (Inventor/solid works/other CAD software)
CNC Lathe / VMC Operators Fanuc/HAAS
ITI - ELECTRICAL / ELECTRONICS
Vita Technology Pvt. Ltd. Contact: adminvitatech@gmail.com M : 9686915114 / 9686830228

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SEMINAR on Part-time Job Opportunity For Retd/ VRS/House-wife/Self-employed in Bangalore by a Reputed MNC. Call: 8861791147

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EXCELLENT INCOME TOP MNC in BANGALORE Hiring Rtd Govt, Pvt, Defence, HNI, Bank, Teacher, VRS, NRI, IT, CA, Sr.CITIZEN, HOUSEWIFE Age 30-70 9845673443 8073400868

EARN 50000 pm, Zero investment work from home, free training fm top Co for Rtd officials/Bankers/ CA/HW, Tax Consultant. -9980250607, 7411358386

TECHNICAL

PRODUCTION

WANTED
Production Manager
Min. 10 Yrs Exp Poly Bag Manufacturers & Injection moulding
Injection Moulding Die Maker
Min. 5 Yrs Exp Injection Moulding Die Making, Age Below 45 Yrs for both
Location: Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bengaluru-68.
Send CV to: uppbangalore@gmail.com
Contact: 9743787293

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED Marketing Executive and Office cum Delivery Boy at RRR Automation - Bangalore. Call 9845197427, 9341297427, Email id: sales@3rautomationsolutions.com

DTDC Requires Corporate Sales Managers, attractive salary, incentive contact Jagadish 9845299777 Mail: jagadish@dtdc.com

business

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real estate

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500 Car Parking Spaces available near Bommasandra Metro Station on a daily basis. Contact : 9008011551

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VIJAYA NAGAR

SALE North East corner borewell 30x40 ft Binny layout Chandra Layout Blore 30000 Rs/sqft NO BROKER 9945479966

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

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education

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

FALIED? /DISCONTINUED Join Final PUC, BA, BCom, BBA, BCA, BSc, MBA, MA, MCom, PhD, LLB, D.Pharma, BEd, MEd, BE, ME: 77608 88670

tender & notices

TENDERS

India Exim Bank
ADVERTISEMENT NO: HRM / OC / INFRA / 2026-27 / 02 - RECRUITMENT OF OFFICER ON CONTRACT
India Exim Bank invites applications for recruitment of an officer for the position in Infrastructure Group on contractual basis. For details, please visit eximbankindia.in/careers
Last date for application is 23.05.2026

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
(Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament)
HQ: CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Kol: CMA Bhawan, 12, Sudder Street Kolkata-700016
The Institute intends to invite a tender (through the GeM Portal) from interested OEMs/ reputed authorized ERP education partners for providing Industry-Relevant SAP, Quantum Computing – Financial Modelling and other advanced courses through an Interactive Unified Training Platform.
For more details, please visit the website: www.icmai.in

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shruti Thoniparambil Mohandas D/o Mr. Mohandas Thoniparambil Gopinathan R/o Tirumala Residency, Electronic City, Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shruti Thoniparambil Mohandas to Shruti Mohandas and henceforth I shall be known as Shruti Mohandas in all purpose, vide affidavit no. IN-KA565249632304l7Y sworn before Notary Public at Bangalore on 11th May 2026. Shruti Thoniparambil Mohandas and Shruti Mohandas both are same and one identical person

I Moanungsang Zakariah S/o K.M. Zakariah, Aged 53 years, R/o No. 78, Ground Flr, 6th Main , Near Shanimahathma Temple, Nagapura, Mahalakshmipuram, B'lore -86, In my son's (steve zakariah monson) CBSE Marks Card father name mentioned wrongly as Zakariah instead of Moanungsang Zakariah, Henceforth, I shall be known Moanungsang Zakariah for all of his Purposes vide Affidavit dated 7.5.26 sworn before 32nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru

I, Trichi Kannappan Raj, S/o Trichi Ramanathan Kannappan, residing at 3305 Nandi Park Apt, Gottigere, BG Road, Bangalore-83, declare that the names RAJ TRICHI KANNAPPAN, RAJ KANNAPPAN TRICHI, RAJ T.K, RAJ K.T, RAJ K, and T.K RAJ refer to the same person, myself. Henceforth, I shall be known as TRICHI KANNAPPAN RAJ, as per Aadhaar and PAN. Affidavit No. IN-KA54171178475498Y, dated 08-May-2026.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sunit Nanda, father of minor child Shireen Nanda, R/o C-1505, Eta Star Garden Apartments, Binnipete, Bangalore - 560023, hereby declare that the name of my daughter has been changed from Shireen Nanda to Shireen Tikoo Nanda and henceforth she shall be known as Shireen Tikoo Nanda for all purposes.

I hitherto known as VEDHA SRINIVASA alias VEDHAVATHI C S daughter of SIDDARAJU residing at No 1126, Behind Police Station, Fort, Channapatna, Ramanagar, Karnataka 562160, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VEDHA C S

I Kiran P R residing at 135, 22nd A Cross, GKVK Post, Judicial Layout, Bangalore - 560065. I have changed my son's name from Chervik K Reddy to Charvik K Reddy vide affidavit dt: 30/03/2026 sworn before notary K V Nanjaiah Bangalore.

I, Sarvamangala, D/O Appaiah Kaikondrahalli, R/O 9 Shiva Krupa, BDS Nagar, Kothanur, Bangalore 560077, declare that Sarvamangala A, Sarvamangalaappaiah, and Sarvamangala are one and the same person, and my official name shall be Sarvamangala A

I, Nidhi Lokur, D/o Nitin Sharad Lokur, resident of J.P Nagar Bengaluru, have changed my name to Nidhi Nitin Lokur vide affidavit dated 08/05/2026, sworn before notary B.G Sriram

LOST & FOUND

I, Khader Vali Khan age 51, son of Mohammed Abbas Khan, residing at opposite Vijaya Bank, Dabaspet, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Tq, Bengaluru Rural District, on 30.04.2026, while traveling from Nelamangala to my home, the original Sale Deed purchased by my father was lost. The said document is registered as Document No. 1942/1966-67 in the Sub-Registrar Office, Nelamangala. As this document is very important, I request anyone who finds it to kindly return it to me. Mob No: 8861424317

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Long before it locks, jaw sends warnings. What are those?

Stress on joint essential for talking, chewing shows up in facial niggles that most ignore

Malathy.Iyer@timesofindia.com

One morning in August last year, Rupal Shah (name changed) woke up with a sudden lockjaw that scared her out of her wits. Despite hot fomentation, her jaws wouldn't open a centimetre. "I couldn't eat, and had to drink hot coffee using a straw," recalls the 45-year-old economics professor. What seemed like a sudden crisis was, in fact, the result of a joint disorder that doctors say had likely been progressing for a decade or more.

The temporomandibular joint (TMJ) sits on both sides of the face, and acts as the hinge connecting the jawbone to the skull. It is essential for talking, chewing, yawning and swallowing. When this joint, or the muscles and ligaments around it, stops functioning properly, the result is a temporomandibular disorder (TMD). According to Mumbai-based Dr Varun Kunte, who is treating Shah. Indian studies estimate 25% of the population has had at least some minor TMJ symptoms at any given time. "Around 60% of these patients can have significant issues requiring medical attention," he says.

TMJ disorders can trigger pain, clicking, locking, stiffness, headaches, facial discomfort, ear symptoms and restricted mouth opening. And because symptoms overlap with headaches, dental pain, ear complaints and stress-related tension, patients like Shah live with TMD for years without knowing the jaw joint is the real source of the problem. Like any other joint, it can also suffer from osteoarthritis, disc displacement and erosion. In severe cases, patients may even need joint replacement surgery costing more than Rs 2 lakh in the private sector.

WHY JAW HURTS, CLICKS OR LOCKS

Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder is a group of conditions that causes pain and dysfunction in jaw movement. Symptoms include:

- **Face, neck:** Pain or heavy ache
- **Mouth:** Trouble chewing, pain while eating. Clicking, popping noise while opening mouth
- **Ear:** Pain inside and around ear, noises such as tinnitus
- **Jaw:** Pain, tenderness, sometimes a lockjaw
- **Head, Tooth:** Headache, dizziness, tooth pain

COMMON CAUSES

PHYSICAL

- **Disc erosion:** Bones can rub together, causing clicking, popping, or pain
- **Jaw injury:** Can fracture joint bone or damage joint structure
- **Arthritis:** Can damage joint cartilage, cause inflammation, restrict movement
- **Connective tissue diseases:** Can also impact ligaments supporting jaw joint
- **Genetics:** Genetic predisposition or a lower pain threshold make people more susceptible

LIFESTYLE

- **Grinding, clenching, misaligned teeth:** Grinding teeth puts pressure on joint. Misaligned teeth can lead to 'bad bite', joint strain
- **Bad posture:** Forward head posture due to prolonged desk work can strain neck, jaw muscles
- **Diet:** Chunky fast food forces folk to open mouth wider, chew harder
- **Stress, anxiety:** Can make face, neck muscles tense

WOMEN MORE AT RISK

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), TMD prevalence ranges from 4% to 15% in populations, with women at four times greater risk than men. But specialists say the Indian problem may be much larger. A 2025 review paper from Nagpur's Ranjeet Deshmukh Dental College & Research Centre, published in Annals of Dental Specialty, pegged the prevalence at 35%. Dr Tofiq Bohra, who heads the newly set-up TMJ department at Fortis-SL Raheja Hospital in Mumbai, says, "Women need to be especially alert because they are more commonly affected than men." Hormonal influences, differences in pain sensitivity and connective tissue factors may all play a role. Socially, women are also among those most likely to spend months or years being told their symptoms are vague, or not serious enough.

That is one reason why TMJ disorders remain under-recognised and undertreated. A patient may complain of jaw pain, severe headache, neck stiffness, ringing in the ears, facial pain or difficulty opening the mouth, and never connect it to the jaw joint. Some are told it is due to chewing gum, yawning too widely or "just stress". But specialists say stress is only one part of a more complicated picture.

'BIGGER' FOOD, SMALLER JAW

Teeth grinding, chronic muscle tension, poor posture and sleep disturbance all place repeated strain on the jaw system. Poor bone health may also make the joint more vulnerable. Diet patterns are changing too, and doctors say that matters. "The average Indian diet was chapati, bhaji and some non-veg. But nowadays, people chose hard and chewy items," says Dr Bohra, adding, "I once got called for an emergency when a youngster, who bought this huge burger while driving on a highway, got a locked jaw when he opened his mouth too wide to bite into it."

Some also point to broader structural changes. "Previously, people would have 32 teeth, but the jaw seems to be shrinking with many people having only 28," says Hyderabad-based TMJ specialist Dr Kishor Govardhan. The "overload" on the "masticating system" — teeth, muscles and TMJ — may be the reason more cases are surfacing. "Previously, people would have teeth issues, but now due to lifestyle issues such as grinding teeth when stressed, there is a load on the muscles and the joint, triggering TMDs," he adds.

However, Dr Ajoy Roychoudhury of AIIMS Delhi, a pioneer in TMJ surgery in India, insists there isn't an actual increase in incidence. "It's better awareness that is leading to better diagnosis. People have better access to information," he says, adding that instead of relying on social media, patients should consult a maxillofacial specialist for TMJ problems.

40 SHADES OF TMJ

One thing is clear: TMJ disorders are notoriously complex and treatment is rarely quick, simple or uniform. "It has to be multidisciplinary, including pain management specialists," says Dr Roychoudhury. Dr Kunte adds that at least 40 different types of TMJ disorders are described, making a one-size-fits-all approach impossible. One patient may have inflammation, while another may have bone degeneration, disc compression, or fused bones. The standard approach is to reserve surgery for last.

But even a successful surgery is not the end of treatment. Recovery can stretch over months or years, and outcomes often depend on sustained therapy, compliance and early diagnosis. Rupal Shah's case underlines the same reality from the non-surgical side. After the first doctor she consulted for her lockjaw recommended surgery, she sought three more opinions before Dr Kunte advised a neuromuscular orthotic, a medical device that helps keep her jaw aligned. The treatment, costing more than Rs 1 lakh, will continue for a year before she gets definite relief.

TOI HealthTech

Discarded eye tissue offers hope for cornea shortage

With just 3 out of 10 who need corneal transplants getting it, this breakthrough could help bridge a big gap

Shimona.Kanwar@timesofindia.com

For every 70 people losing sight to corneal blindness, only one donor tissue is available worldwide. And in India, where around 1 lakh new corneal transplants are needed annually, only 30,000 can be provided. Currently, corneal transplants rely entirely on donated corneas from cadavers, but demand far outstrips supply. Researchers hope to bridge that gap with a bioengineered cornea that a team from Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh has designed. These scientists have used the corneoscleral rim, a ring-shaped piece of tissue left behind after surgeons remove the diseased cornea from a patient's eye during keratoplasty (corneal transplant). Usually discarded, this rim contains stem cells and other corneal cells that make it a powerful biological template. "People worldwide are trying to make artificial corneas, but our novelty lies in the fact that we've used something that surgeons reject as waste," says Manni Luthra-Guptasarma, principal investigator and professor at PGIMER's immunopathology department.

Scientists placed the discarded corneoscleral rim in a dish to be used as a 'mould' into which they poured collagen, a natural protein found abundantly in the eye. The collagen, guided by the rim, formed a gel-like structure within the area that would normally be the transparent cornea, while the rest of the collagen remained more fluid. "It happened by serendipity. We put the collagen to tease cells out of the rim. My student, researcher Maryada Sharma, lifted it the next day and saw the rim had actually hosted, and possibly nucleated, the polymerisation of a cornea-like object itself," adds Luthra-Guptasarma.

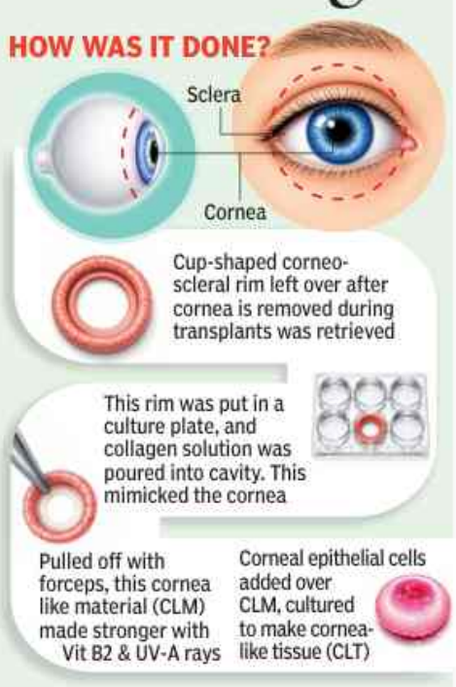
This transparent structure resembled a native cornea, complete with its natural curvature and thickness. The bioengineered cornea, initially termed "cornea-like material", underwent rigorous tests to confirm viability. It allowed light to pass through it just as it would through a human cornea. Its thickness matched that of a native cornea, and it transmitted light across the UV-visible spectrum in a manner similar to a natural cornea. Scanning electron microscopy (imaging technique that scans sample surfaces with a focused electron beam) revealed that the collagen network within the artificial cornea mirrored the intricate structure of a natural cornea, and it integrated well with the surrounding rim, essential for nutrient supply.

However, they needed to improve its tensile strength (ability to withstand pulling forces) for surgical handling. So, the team introduced riboflavin (vitamin B2) and exposed the collagen to UV-A light which helps create stronger bonds within the collagen network. To make it more like natural tissue, living corneal cells were added to the developing cornea's surface, promoting a more complex, multi-layered structure. Called "cornea-like tissue" or CLT, this version was more rigid, and easier to handle.

A natural cornea is about 96-97% water, even though it's primarily made of collagen. The bioengineered CLT astonishingly achieved the same high water content, despite being made with a much lower collagen concentration. So, the discarded rim plays a crucial role in directing the collagen's natural remodelling. The study has been published in Molecular Biology Reports, and the scientists have been granted an Indian patent. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also sanctioned a three-year grant for animal trials.

Dr Virender Sangwan, ophthalmologist and former director at the LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad who has been involved in bioengineered cornea research since 2011, points out that this technology is most cost-effective and doesn't even need animal trials. "In a standard corneal transplant, surgeons use a central disc of tissue (typically 7.5 mm to 8.5 mm in diameter) from a donor cornea that measures roughly 12 mm in total. The rim is left over. This technology uses that rim as a natural mould to make corneas, guided by nature's own creation," he says, adding that a single donor rim can potentially serve as a scaffold multiple times, supplementing the existing eye bank system rather than trying to replace it.

HOW WAS IT DONE?



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RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Bengaluru Regional Office
Public Notice

Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bengaluru - Extension of Period

The Reserve Bank of India issued Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bengaluru vide Directive No. DoS.CO.UCB.BSD-III.D-2/12.23.283/2019-20 dated January 02, 2020 for a period of six months up to close of business on July 10, 2020, which was last extended vide Directive No. DOR.MON/D-58/12.23.283/2025-26 dated February 02, 2026. The Reserve Bank of India is satisfied that in the public interest, it is necessary to further extend the period of operation of the Directive beyond close of business on May 10, 2026.

2. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank of India, in the exercise of powers vested in it under subsection (1) of Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, hereby extends the Directive for a further period of three months from close of business on May 10, 2026 to close of business on August 10, 2026, subject to review.

3. Other terms and conditions of the Directive under reference, shall remain unchanged.

Bengaluru Sd/-
Date: May 13, 2026 Regional Director

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The Special General Body Meeting of the ITC Employees' Housing Co- op. Society Ltd., will be held on **17th May 2026 (Sunday) at 10.00 a.m.** at **India Campus Crusade For Christ. No.1407, Hennur Main Road, St.Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru - 560084,** will be presided by Aiyappa P C President of the Society. All the members are requested to attend the meeting in time.
ON BEHALF OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
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The general public is hereby informed that our Client is intending to purchase the property described in the **Schedule** below ("**Schedule Property**") owned by Mrs. K. Anuradha Raju (wife of Mr. K.V. Vishnu Raju) residing at Plot No. 10, Road No. 9, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad- 500033 ("**Owner**"). The Owner has represented that she is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.
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Schedule
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Magnah Law Partners
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Date: May 13, 2026

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Puri rejects talk of election-driven freeze on fuel prices

▶Continued from P1

Petroleum minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** dismissed suggestions that price hike was intentionally postponed due to polls in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, saying several elections have been held since 2022, when fuel rates were last increased. "It's not my case that prices... not go up. I am saying the two are unrelated," he said, adding that India was the only country to keep fuel prices frozen for four years.

Petrol and diesel are currently priced at Rs 94.77 and Rs 87.67 per litre, respectively, in the capital. According to estimates, OMCs — IOC, Bharat Petroleum and HP — are losing Rs 14 per litre on petrol, Rs 42 per litre on diesel and Rs 674 per domestic LPG cylinder. Their collective under-recoveries are estimated at Rs 1,600-1,700 crore a day.

Seeking to assuage shortages fear, Puri said there were no supply issues despite disruptions in energy flows and that India had 60 days of crude and LNG inventories and 45 days of LPG stocks. He acknowledged the need to increase reserves and said one firm was acquiring 400-500 acres for additional storage.

On domestic oil and gas exploration, Puri said govt has amended exploration rules and expanded the acreage offered under licensing rounds. Centre has also cut effective royalty rates on crude oil and natural gas production to boost domestic output. As per the notification, effective royalty on onshore crude oil production has been reduced to 10%, while offshore crude royalty has been lowered to 8%. Royalty on natural gas has also been cut to 8%.

Mom disagreeing no excuse to renege on marriage promise: HC

Saeed.Khan
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Gujarat HC has observed that a mother's disapproval of a relationship cannot be accepted as a genuine excuse for a man to evade criminal scrutiny for allegedly reneging on a marriage promise made to a woman with whom he had an affair.

The court refused to quash a FIR lodged against an NRI under BNS section 69, which penalises sexual intercourse achieved through deceitful means, including false promises of marriage, observing that the allegations required proper investigation and trial.

The man, a permanent resident of Zambia, came in contact with the complainant over social media in Nov 2022 and their interaction later developed into a relationship, as per the FIR. The woman alleged that the man called her to Vadodara in Feb 2024, took her to a hotel and stayed with her from Feb 12 to 14.

She alleged that during this period he established physical relations with her on promise to marry her in Dec 2024. In Jan 2025, he allegedly reneged on his promise, claiming his mother did not approve. The woman then lodged an FIR at Sayajiganj station in Vadodara in May under Section 69 of the BNS.

If Parl legislates on social reform, courts will accept it, says CJI Kant

▶Continued from page 1

During the 14th day of the debate on Tuesday, the CJI Justice Surya Kant said, "If the people of the country, through their elected representatives, seek social reform to change certain religious practices, and Parliament or an assembly enacts a law to that effect, the constitutional courts will accept it.

"If such a law is enacted and people petition constitutional courts alleging that the govt is interfering in religion in the guise of bringing social reforms or regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activities associated with religious practices, then the courts would examine the validity of such legislation."

These observations came from the bench of CJI Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi, when senior advocate Jaideep Gupta was presenting the stand of Kerala govt, which had done a flip flop on the sanctity of the religious custom of Sabarimala Ayyappa temple which restricts entry of women in the 10-50-year age group.

CJI Kant said it was impossible for constitutional courts to test the validity of a maze of religious practices in thousands of temples and shrines of other faiths, which follow peculiar customs and rituals relating to men and women.

Gupta said if the validity of a religious practice was challenged before SC or HC, then it became imperative for the court concerned to determine whether the practice was an essential religious practice. "In determining the essentiality of a practice to a religion, the court must test it on the touchstone of tenets of the religion concerned and not against judicial or constitutional standards," he said.

Tip to Raj officials ignored, 'whistleblower' then emailed leaked NEET paper to NTA

All Biology, Chemistry Questions Were Hidden In 'Guess Paper', Sold For ₹10L-25L Across States

Dishank.Purohit
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Jaipur: CBI on Tuesday took over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak probe after Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) said "paper leak mafia" had sold a leaked question paper disguised as a "guess paper" — containing all 90 biology and 45 chemistry questions from the May 3 exam — for Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh a copy, across a network stretching from Rajasthan and Haryana to Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Kerala.

A CBI team reached the SOG headquarters in Jaipur late on Tuesday to question suspects rounded up by police. The central agency said it registered an FIR based on a complaint from the Union education ministry's department of higher education, invoking charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, theft and destruction of evidence under BNS, apart from offences under Prevention of Corruption Act and Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

"These questions were hidden inside a guess paper containing over 400 questions," a senior SOG official said.

In Nashik, police detained a 27-year-old from Nandgaon who had allegedly altered his appearance to evade detection. DCP Kirankumar Chavan said Nashik Police acted on a request from their Rajasthan counterparts. "He will be handed over to Rajasthan Police once their team arrives in Nashik," Chavan said.

Sources said the suspect was a third-year Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery student in MP's Sehore and worked part-time as a career counsellor in Nashik. He was preparing to leave the city on the pretext of a holiday when police detained him. He allegedly received a consignment from an unidentified person and forwarded it to someone in Gurgaon.

SOG said the paper was circulated widely from Jaipur, Sikar and Gurgaon to Nashik and Pune. Investigators also retrieved messages telling students that even if they had not prepared adequately, memorising the guess-paper questions would help them crack the test.

A Sikar resident ostensibly received the guess paper on May 7 and alerted local authorities, but the complaint was allegedly ignored, SOG sources said. The person then emailed National Testing Agency, which shared the input with another central agency that contacted SOG.

A comparison of the guess paper with the official question paper revealed multiple matches.

"We dispatched a team to Sikar. We realised that the cartel involved in leaking the paper had a network stretching across the country," an SOG source said.

Investigators in Rajasthan said the preliminary probe indicated the leak did not originate in the state. IGP (SOG) Ajay Pal Lamba said a Haryana-based suspect obtained the paper from someone in Nashik.

Among the first to be questioned by CBI was Sikar-based Rakesh Mandawaria, a "paper solver" and "consultant". Mandawaria was detained by SOG on May 8 after he bragged that 120-odd questions from the guess paper he had shared with clients were included in the NEET-UG exam. A coaching institute teacher subsequently filed a complaint at Sikar's Udyog Nagar police station.

"We have questioned 150 students and 70 others so far," an SOG official said. "We suspect the questions were meant to be shared with only a few select buyers, but greed took over and someone leaked them outside the designated network."

SOG has not formally arrested anyone yet. A CBI team remained at the SOG headquarters late Tuesday, coordinating with senior officials over the transfer of the Nashik suspect to its custody.

(With inputs from Abhilash Botekar in Nashik)

ANI

Protesters marching to CAG office clash with cops in Thiruvananthapuram

NTA: Even if a single question matches our paper, zero tolerance policy violated

Manash Gohain & Hemali Chhapia | TNN

New Delhi/Mumbai: National Testing Agency (NTA) Tuesday cancelled NEET-UG 2026 after the alleged paper leak. Conducting NEET costs Rs 200 crore, but the agency earns about Rs 300 crore from application fees of aspirants.

"The paper conducted on May 3 had four code versions. None of the papers was found in the market and no leak has been established. In a PDF that was circulated, there were many questions, and some of them appeared similar to questions from the exam paper," NTA director general Abhishek Singh said while announcing the decision to cancel the test. Conducting NEET costs around Rs 200 crore, but the agency earns about Rs 300 crore from application fee.

"So, I would not say that the entire paper was leaked. But I will definitely say that even if a single question matches our question paper, then our commitment to zero tolerance and zero error is violated, and our entire process is compromised," said NTA director general Abhishek Singh. "We take responsibility for it and will take action accordingly," Singh added amid protests by student groups, parents and opposition parties accusing govt of "administrative failure and insensitivity toward students".

TOI had shared a copy of the handwritten PDF with the NTA and it is alleged the leaked material was sold at rates ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 40 lakh depending on timing and access.

The first whistleblower inputs reached NTA on May 7 night, four days after the exam. The material allegedly contained questions matching those in the May 3 test paper. A verification exercise found the PDF was present on a few mobile phones on May 1 and May 2, before the exam, according to the agency.

People aware of the probe said the paper is suspected to have been leaked from a printing agency in Jaipur. NTA investigators believe it first reached a coaching institute in Nashik before being circulated across states. Following inputs from Rajasthan Police, Nashik crime branch detained 30-year-old Shubham Khairnar, who investigators believe may hold key information on how the paper moved through the network.

The controversy widened after Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group began examining claims that a PDF "guess paper" containing around 410 questions had been circulated before the exam. Investigators are probing allegations that nearly 140 questions, including 120 of chemistry, of the 180-question NEET paper were part of the 410-question PDF. Officials are also examining interstate links involving Rajasthan, Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

In its FIR, CBI has invoked sections of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, theft and destruction of evidence under BNS, besides the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Public Examination Prevention of Unfair Means Act 2024. Investigators are also examining allegations that the order of questions and answer options matched the final paper.

The exam would be conducted again on dates to be notified separately, NTA said, with Singh indicating the revised schedule could be announced within 7-10 days. Students will not have to register again or pay additional fees, it said. Fees already paid would be refunded and the re-test conducted using the agency's internal resources. Candidature details and examination centre choices from the May cycle would be carried forward. Students must rely only on official communication channels, the agency said.

HOW NEET PAPERS ARE GUARDED

Journey of a NEET UG question paper involves a multi-stage process of preparation, high-security storage, and strictly monitored transportation to ensure the integrity of the examination

Item preparation and question setting
- Subject experts prepare 'items' (questions)
- Investigators identifies the 'paper setter' as well as translators of 13 languages (which are done manually) — one of the critical early points in the journey where potential leaks are monitored

Printing and encryption
- NTA introduced new protocols for 2026 where question papers are kept in an encrypted digital format with secret codes
- Papers are printed minimum 7-days ahead of the exam

Storage in secure vaults
- Physical question paper sets are stored in secure bank branches
- For the 2024 examination, two distinct sets were used:

Primary Set: Stored at State Bank of India (SBI) branches

Backup Set: Stored at Canara Bank branches to be used only in case of a discrepancy or leak involving the SBI set

Secure transportation

The movement of examination materials is a highly coordinated effort involving:

GPS-enabled vehicles: All transport vehicles are tracked in real-time

Police escorts: Materials are moved under police escort with support from district administrations and escort teams

Sealed protocols: Handling is end-to-end secure, moving materials to designated locations under strict sealed protocols

Arrival and storage at exam centres

On the morning of the examination, the papers reach the designated examination centres and are placed in strong rooms

Strong room protocols: These are secure rooms within the exam centres where papers are kept until the exam begins

Breach risks: Investigations into past scandals have highlighted vulnerabilities at this stage

Distribution: At the centre, officials must ensure the correct set (e.g., the SBI set) is distributed. Discrepancies have occurred where the backup Canara Bank set was mistakenly distributed at certain centres, leading to result complications

2024 NEET leak: Accused former principal out on bail, 're-hired'

Vishvendu Jaipuriar | TNN

Hazaribag: With National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday cancelling NEET-UG 2026 over an alleged paper leak in Rajasthan, Jharkhand's Hazaribag, in limelight over a similar leak in 2024, is back in focus.

Probe against a few accused from Hazaribag is still underway. Some have, however, obtained bail from the high court and slipped back into routine life, sources said. Among them is Ehsanul Haque, former principal of Oasis School, the centre of the 2024 leak. Sources claimed he has been re-engaged by the school management as "director".

Oasis wasn't allotted a NEET-UG centre this time, when about 3,300 candidates appeared for the medical entrance test across nine centres in Hazaribag town.

Oasis chairman Shabbir Ahmad didn't respond to calls for comments about Haque, who was among four people arrested by CBI in Hazaribagh over the 2024 leak. Although Haque's name does not appear on the official website of Oasis, a teacher of the school confirmed his return to an administrative role.

Sources said a crucial clue in 2024 was the recovery of a partially burnt NEET question booklet — allegedly allotted to Oasis — in Patna. That brought CBI to Hazaribag and eventually led to the arrests of Haque, Oasis vice-principal Imtiaz Alam and local journalist Jamaluddin in the initial stages of the probe.

Investigations widened after CBI scrutinised guest registers of several hotels in Hazaribag following the interrogation of Haque, Alam and Jamaluddin. Investigators then traced the movement of leak lynchpins to a guest house in Ramnagar locality and arrested its owner, Raju Singh, the sources said.

CBI takes over Suvendu ex-aide murder probe

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New Delhi: CBI has filed an FIR and taken over the investigation into the murder of **Chandranath Rath**, former personal assistant to West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari, **reports Rajshekhar Jha**. The agency has formed a seven-member SIT, headed by a DIG-rank officer, to probe the case.

A meeting was held at the CBI headquarters in Delhi on Tuesday to review developments. The team has sought the remand of arrested suspects.

According to an office order issued to form the SIT, the move follows the registration of a case by CBI Anti-Corruption Branch in Kolkata. The SIT is led by DIG Pankaj Kumar Singh of CBI's Special Crimes Division in New Delhi.

The team features a diverse group of high-ranking officials, including SP Subhash Chandra Kundu and SP Anil Kumar Yadav from New Delhi, alongside DSPs and inspectors drawn from the bureau's branches in Dhanbad, Patna, Ranchi and Lucknow. Operational supervision of the SIT's work will be the responsibility of the joint director of Kolkata Zone, who has been authorised to draft additional personnel from local units.

Speaker to conduct inquiry before deciding on letters

Continued from page 1

The rival factions appointed their own "whips" – C Vijayabaskar for the Shanmugam camp and Agri S S Krishnamoorthy for the EPS side — and sent out emails to MLAs — one section asking them to vote in favour of the motion and the other against. The EPS camp maintained that it had submitted letters of support from all 47 MLAs, while the Shanmugam camp, which "elected" S P Velumani as legislature party leader, sent an objection letter to Speaker J C D Prabhakar disputing EPS's claim.

"The signatures were obtained for some other reason, when the MLAs were staying in a resort in Puducherry. We never gave a letter supporting EPS as legislature party leader. We have submitted a letter of support from around 30 MLAs to the Speaker recognising S P Velumani as our legislature party leader," said an MLA close to Shanmugam.

The Speaker will have to conduct an inquiry before deciding on the letters. "There is no question of the anti-defection law kicking in as the legislature party has not yet been recognised," said a leader in the Shanmugam camp.

The anti-defection law says legislators of a party who switch loyalties (vote against the party whip without prior permission) will be disqualified unless the party merges with the other party with at least two thirds of its MLAs agreeing to the merger.

Addressing reporters, Shanmugam said, "We are not in alliance with any party now. Accepting the people's verdict, the AIADMK Legislature Party has decided to support the TVK govt." EPS associate Krishnamoorthy, meanwhile, said AIADMK will vote against the confidence motion. Shanmugam said the split happened after EPS proposed forming a govt with the support of DMK, which most MLAs rejected. "AIADMK was formed to defeat DMK. For 53 years we have fought DMK. If we align with them, AIADMK will vanish," he said. Soon, Vijay visited Shanmugam's office and met the MLAs supporting him.

One can wake up a Hindu, have lunch as Muslim, go to sleep as Christian: Rationalists

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New Delhi: A rationalist organisation raised eyebrows in the Supreme Court by claiming that Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience and right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion, permitted a person to wake up as a Hindu, have lunch as a Muslim and go to sleep as a Christian.

Arguing for rationalists Hamid Dabholkar and Nandini Jadhav, office-bearers of Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, senior advocate Sanjay Hegde told a nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that every person could profess and practice any religion at any given time of a day as per his conscience.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said such an interpretation of Article 25(1) could lead to absurdity as a person could say I am a Muslim but would become a Hindu to enter a temple to worship a deity at a given time of the day.

Hegde said God did not discriminate and cited folklore about how the devotion of a Muslim — 'Bhakta Salabega' — stalled the march of Lord Jagannath's chariot after he was denied permission to participate in the annual Rath Yatra

"Can one profess Islam, practice Hinduism and propagate Christianity all at once? It is a dangerous proposition," Justice Amanullah said. Undeterred, Hegde said if the place of worship was kept out, then a person could do this in exercise of his right to freedom of conscience.

Hegde said God did not discriminate and cited folklore about how the devotion of a Muslim — 'Bhakta Salabega' — stalled the march of Lord Jagannath's chariot after he was denied permission to participate in the annual Rath Yatra. Justice B V Nagarathna said, "The moral of these stories is the unqualified devotion of the person. Can a non-devotee challenge the validity of a religious practice or custom?"

Hegde said, "Tradition cannot trump the Constitution. A rationalist holds that reason is the proper test of belief... He rejects the proposition that what is old must be true, and that what is sacred must be exempt from inquiry. The Constitution protects religious autonomy in matters that are intrinsically religious — doctrine, rite, ceremony — but not in matters that are secular though associated with religion."

Supporting the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment, which quashed the restriction on entry of women in the 10-50 age bracket into Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, Sanjay Hegde said a denomination could not continue with a practice that was per se discriminatory towards women in their prime years.

"Where the equal worship right of an individual under Article 25(1) collides with a denomination's claim of exclusion under Article 26(b), the individual right prevails. Article 25(1) is in terms made 'equally' available to all persons," he said.

'Depts mulling measures to reduce fuel use'

▶Continued from page 1

It was during his visit to Hyderabad on Sunday that the Prime Minister called upon people to cut down on fuel consumption and gold purchase.

"There is talk across departments to identify steps that can reduce fuel consumption. The message of the PM is for all, including us. We are waiting for some communication from the personnel department detailing what we should do. But every department will have to work out their own plans considering their requirements," a senior official said.

The issue of reducing fuel usage by cutting down unnecessary travel was also discussed at the informal group of ministers meeting which defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired on Monday. Secretaries from different key ministries were present in the meeting.

Meeting held for choice of next CBI chief, Rahul dissents from process

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A high-powered selection committee meeting was convened at Prime Minister's residence on Tuesday to deliberate on appointment of the next Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The meeting, attended by PM Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, was held to evaluate the candidature of IPS officers.

Rahul disagreed with the proposed appointment process and submitted a formal note of dissent. "Despite repeated requests, I was not provided with the self-appraisal reports or 360-degree reports of the eligible candidates. Instead, I was expected to examine the appraisal records of 69 candidates for the first time during the meeting..." he said in the note, which he also posted on X.

Sources said that since Rahul did not participate in the discussion on names, the meeting was over in five minutes, with the remaining 35 minutes being spent on asking questions about Iran and other issues.

Rahul further said that this deliberate denial of information, without any legal basis, made a mockery of the selection process and would ensure that only "your pre-decided candidate is selected".

In his post on X, he said, "I cannot abdicate my constitutional duty by participating in a biased exercise. The Leader of Opposition is not a rubber stamp."

The meeting comes ahead of the completion of CBI Director Praveen Sood's extended tenure on May 24.

Mother cheetah remains safe and healthy

▶Continued From Page

The mother cheetah was reported safe and healthy.

KGP12, a 25-month-old female born on March 10, 2024, was the second female cub from Gamini's first litter. Her delivery of four cubs in open forest had been hailed as the first successful breeding by an India-born cheetah living freely in the wild — a milestone officials said marked the project's transition from intensive management to natural population establishment.

"This was the benchmark of success we had been waiting for: an India-born cheetah breeding in the wild," Rajora said after the birth announcement.

PM Narendra Modi had launched Project Cheetah on Sept 17, 2022, releasing eight cheetahs from Namibia into Kuno, marking the species' return to India decades after its extinction.

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Leaders Are Misreading Gen Z

By Roopa Kudva

The common complaint from senior leaders is that Gen Z lacks staying power, expects too much too soon, and won't commit. That diagnosis is wrong. What we are seeing is a generation that has adapted faster to a constantly changing environment than organisations have.

Many young professionals find that specialising too early limits their options later. Squiggly careers allow them to build judgment, context, and range before locking into a single track. This behaviour is misinterpreted by preceding generations as an unwillingness to go deep.

In reality, it reflects a deeper misalignment between how work is structured and how people today actually learn, grow, and sustain themselves over long careers.

Ram

Redefining loyalty

Organisations restructure, pivot, and eliminate roles with regularity. Gen Z simply drew the rational conclusion: build your own employability, because institutional commitment is unreliable.

Squiggly careers follow the same logic. Moving laterally or diagonally to stay relevant and employable, when long-term guarantees are weak, is a rational response to a volatile environment. Treating it as a character flaw is a misreading of cause and effect.

Refusing the old bargain

Earlier generations accepted trade-offs: pay over culture, title over learning, stability over growth. Gen Z refuses to separate these. Financial security still matters deeply, but they are demanding alignment across money, learning, and environment simultaneously. Leaders who read this as wanting everything without earning it have misunderstood the generation. Energy, not ambition, is also the binding constraint behind many squiggly moves. Certain roles and environments drain energy faster than they develop capability. Over a 40+ year working life, managing energy sustainably is itself a form of ambition—one that linear career frameworks are not designed to recognise.

Relevance over rank

The career horizon for a 25-year-old today is at least 40 years. More than "how do I get to the top", what matters is "how do I stay relevant across four decades of disruption". Gen Z has watched people getting made redundant despite seniority and loyalty. Their behaviour is shaped by that evidence. They also know that skills are getting outdated very quickly. Climbing to the top of something that may not be there tomorrow, is not ambition. Having skills that are employable is.

If this generation won't separate financial reward, continuous learning, and credible culture, are organisations designed to offer all three together?

Career frameworks that treat lateral moves as detours; managers equipped only for promotion conversations; and capability building that rewards tenure over learning speed—these are structural choices with consequences. People will create their own pathways to stay relevant and productive. Many already are.

Squiggly careers recognise that ambition, learning, and sustainability unfold unevenly over long working lives. The question isn't whether these careers will exist. They already do. Employees are adapting to the new reality fast. The question is: are organisations?

(The writer was a leader at Crisil and ONI)

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• Interested candidates may apply on or before 07 days from the date of Advertisement.
- Chancellor

HACK OF THE DAY **AUTO-TRANSLATE YOUTUBE CAPTIONS**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you learn from videos in other languages by reading subtitles in a language you understand

WHAT TO DO: Use YouTube caption settings and Auto-translate when the video has captions but not in your preferred language

STEPS:

1. **Open** the YouTube video
2. **Tap** the video settings or captions option
3. **Turn on** captions if they are available
4. **Choose** Auto-translate if your language is not listed
5. **Select** the language you want to read

NOTE: This is great for lectures, recipes, tutorials, product reviews, and explainers. Accuracy depends on the original audio and captions

SCAN FOR MORE

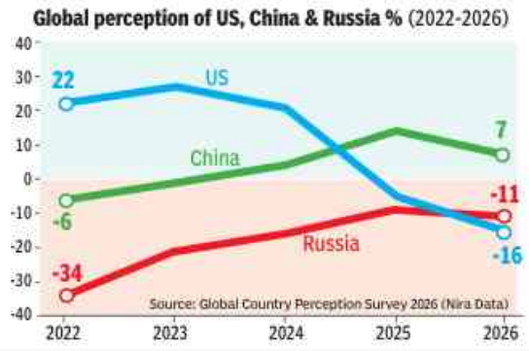
Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Russia, China now have better global reputation than US

The US's global image has declined for a second straight year, a study by the Alliance of Democracies Foundation found. Respondents cited US President Trump's tariffs and geopolitical moves for straining Nato ties and damaging the country's reputation

Global perception of US, China & Russia % (2022-2026)



US, Singapore envoys present as Himanta sworn in CM

Mukut.Das@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: US Ambassador to India and special envoy to South and Central Asia Sergio Gor and Singapore high commissioner to India Simon Wong on Tuesday congratulated Himanta Biswa Sarma after he was sworn in as Assam chief minister for a second consecutive term, with both envoys pointing to expanded cooperation with the state.

Gor attended the swearing-in ceremony in Guwahati, held in the presence of high-profile dignitaries. Posting a photograph with Sarma on X, Gor wrote: "Honored to have been invited to Guwahati today to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The United States and Assam have many commercial ties, and with the CM's leadership we will identify many more win-win scenarios for both of our nations!"

Commercial ties between Assam and the US have expanded across trade, agriculture, energy, tourism and investment promotion, with tea exports remaining a key traditional link. Assam tea continues to find buyers in international markets, including the US, and business events in New York in 2025 showcased Assam tea and connected Indian producers with American buyers.

Himanta begins NDA 3.0 in Assam, cements BJP's NE grip

Seeks Blessings Of Vaishnavite Monks On Stage

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

@himantabiswa

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma with West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari during the swearing-in ceremony in Guwahati on Tuesday

Guwahati: Himanta Biswa Sarma returned to office Tuesday for a second straight term as Assam CM, capping BJP-led NDA's march to a third consecutive govt in the state and cementing his grip over Northeast politics after party's first-ever majority in 126-member assembly.

Before taking oath, Sarma, 57, sought blessings on stage from specially invited satradhikars — monastery heads of the Vaishnavite order founded by 15th–16th century Assamese saint-scholar and reformer Srimanta Sankardev — sending an unmistakable political message on NDA 3.0's cultural and ideological pitch.

"Protecting Sanatan Dharma, Sattra culture, and various tribal faiths in Assam has been, is, and will always remain top priority of our government," Sarma posted on X shortly after taking oath.

Ceremony in Guwahati turned into a full-spectrum NDA parade. PM Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, foreign envoys, industrialists and an array of NDA politicians packed the venue alongside heads of Assam's Vaishnavite monasteries. Swearing-in drew 12 Union ministers, 20 NDA CMs and 18 deputy CMs, making it one of BJP's biggest political showcases outside New Delhi. CM's office called it "India's most powerful gathering" in a post-event statement.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered oath to Sarma and four ministers — BJP's Rameswar Teli and Ajanta Neog, Asom Gana Parishad president Atul Bora, and Bodoland People's Front's Charan Boro.

Selection reflected careful caste and regional arithmetic, balancing tea tribes, women representation, regional allies and Bodo belt while reinforcing BJP's broad social coalition.

Full cabinet expansion, expected shortly, will test how Sarma balances ambition, allies and Assam's layered ethnic equations while tightening BJP's hold over state politics. Dressed in traditional attire, Sarma took oath in Assamese and called the moment "extremely emotional". He credited Modi's guidance and Shah's mentorship for NDA's victory and thanked BJP workers for a hard-fought campaign.

Austerity in motion: Sikkim CM takes train to reach Guwahati

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: If Himanta Biswa Sarma's swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday showcased BJP-led NDA's political strength, the travel choices of leaders attending the event told another story amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity.

One name that stood out was Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang, who set the tone by arriving in Guwahati aboard the Vande Bharat Express, a move that resonated with PM Modi's emphasis on frugality and public transport, according to the details provided by Assam Police.

Some of the Union ministers, including finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, also chose to take modest commercial flights. Defence minister Rajnath Singh and agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan shared a special aircraft, reflecting both practicality and cost-consciousness.

In sharp contrast, several chief ministers and deputy CMs opted for special chartered flights.

Bengal CM pitches Assam-style crackdown on illegal immigration

Tamaghna.Banerjee
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari signalled Tuesday an Assam-style crackdown on illegal immigration, promising tighter border policing, rapid fencing along Bangladesh frontier and closer coordination among BJP-governed eastern states under PM Narendra Modi's "Purvodaya" push.

Arriving in Guwahati for the swearing-in CM Himanta Biswa Sarma second term at the head of BJP-led NDA govt, Adhikari cast Assam and Tripura as templates for Bengal's security and political playbook. "The kind of work that has been done in Assam and Tripura in the interest of the nation will now be carried out by BJP in Bengal as well," he said, linking Assam's border strategy to BJP's roadmap for Bengal. "As done by Assam, we will take all necessary measures to deal with illegal immigrants and strengthen security along Bangladesh border," he said.

Targeting previous Trinamool Congress govt in Bengal, Adhikari accused it of weakening border security through "appeasement politics" and failing to hand over land needed by BSF to seal unfenced stretches along Bangladesh border.

Not a single divisive comment: Modi tells Bengal BJP after victory

RohitKhanna@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: PM Narendra Modi personally instructed BJP functionaries not to make "a single divisive comment" after landmark victory, party's state president Samik Bhattacharya said Tuesday, outlining what he called a "change, not revenge" policy for post-poll Bengal.

"On result day, he called me and said nothing that can foment violence or division must be uttered. Not a single opposition party office should be destroyed," Bhattacharya said in an interview with TOI.

On promises such as uniform civil code and BJP's "detect, delete and deport" campaign against illegal immigrants, he said implementation would depend on CM's decisions but added that "radicalisation" and "demographic invasion" remained concerns. "Muslims who are Indian citizens have nothing to fear," he said, citing RSS relief camps that sheltered nearly 1,500 Muslim families in Basirhat during Covid.

Bhattacharya rejected opposition allegations of widespread post-poll violence. "There has not been a single case of murder, gang rape or nude parade since result day," he said, blaming unrest on infighting within Trinamool.

Vijay's astrologer made officer on special duty

Chennai: Chief minister C Joseph Vijay's personal astrologer Rickey Radhan Pandit Vettrivel was made the officer on special duty to the CM on Tuesday. The appointment faced flak from many quarters including CPI, CPM who are backing TVK govt. CPI state secretary M Veerapandian issued statement demanding withdrawal of appointment. "Vijay was free to hold personal religious beliefs, but a constitutional govt founded on secular values should not carry religious or faith-based identifiers in official appointments," he said. TNN

TN to close 717 Tasmac outlets near places of worship, schools

Omjasvin.MD
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Tamil Nadu govt has ordered the closure of 717 Tasmac retail liquor vending outlets located within 500m of places of worship, educational institutions and bus stands in the next two weeks, citing public welfare. In effect, the order, issued on instructions of chief minister C Joseph Vijay, increases the prohibited distance 10-fold — from the existing 50m under the TN liquor retail vending (in shops and bars) Rules, 2003, to 500m.

Officials, however, told **TOI** that implementation will take time. On Tuesday, about 50 outlets were shut, with 10 each in Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore and Salem.

On Tuesday, about 50 outlets were shut, with 10 each in Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore and Salem

Home, prohibition and excise department secretary K Manivasan said work to shut the 717 Tasmac outlets began on Tuesday and will continue daily. "We are identifying locations and godowns to shift the items inside shops. This will take time. By two weeks, all shops will be closed. We are not looking at opening new outlets in other locations to compensate for the business loss. The focus for now is only on closure," he told TOI.

Tasmac operates 4,765 retail outlets across the state, of which 717 were located within the restricted radius. A survey by Tasmac found that 276 shops were situated near places of worship, 186 near educational institutions, and 255 near bus stands.

The Tamil Nadu Tasmac Employees' Union, affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), has welcomed the state govt's decision to shut liquor outlets but urged it to look at livelihoods for workers.

SIR riders in women welfare schemes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Women whose names were deleted from the electoral rolls in SIR and those who are non-Indians would not be eligible for Lakshmir Bhandar or Annapurna Bhandar schemes in Bengal, state's women & child development & social welfare minister Agnimitra Paul said Tuesday.

Those whose appeals were pending in SIR tribunals and those who had applied for CAA would be "considered separately", she said, without elaborating.

"Those women who are enlisted will get it. But before that, an analysis will be done. Those whose names have been deleted in the SIR, and yet they were Laksmhir Bhandar beneficiaries — they will not get it. Also, the non-citizens. They won't get Annapurna Bhandar benefits either. The CM has, however, stressed that those who had appealed in the (SIR) tribunals and under CAA will be kept out of this," Paul said in a post on X.

Bengal has around two crore Lakshmir Bhandar beneficiaries. On Monday, CM Suvendu Adhikari had announced that the ongoing social welfare schemes like Lakshmir Bhandar would be carried forward by the new govt. The new Annapurna Bhandar, which will give women Rs 3,000 per month, will be rolled out from June.

TIMES ascent www.timesascent.com Catapult your career

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
A-11, Sector-24, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. - 201301
Ph.: 0120-2412294, 2412445, Fax: 0120-2412397, (CIN-L74899DL1974GOI007417)

Advertisement No.: 02 (NFL)/2026 Dated: 13.05.2026

Recruitment of Field Representative - NDSC Center In charge

Online applications are invited from energetic, young & qualified Indian Nationals for recruitment to following positions in NFL:

Sl. No	Post Name	Total Vacancies	Category Wise Vacancies						
			UR	SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	EWS	PwBD	ExSM
MARKETING DIVISION									
1	Field Representative -NDSC Center In charge	40	20	05	03	10	02	02	09

Detailed advertisement shall be available on NFL website: **www.nationalfertilizers.com** → Careers →Recruitment in NFL → Recruitment of Field Representative - NDSC Center In charge from **13.05.2026** Online application portal shall be available from **13.05.2026** to **12.06.2026**. **Last date of submission of Online Application will be 12.06.2026**. Any corrigendum/ addendum/ errata/update for this recruitment shall be published only on the NFL's website.

DGM (HR-Pers)

NFL : A Navratna Company

Indian Institute of Teacher Education
Gandhinagar

SEARCH-cum-SELECTION COMMITTEE invites APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications are invited for the post of Vice Chancellor of Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The essential qualifications and experience etc. required for the post of Vice Chancellor are available on the University website, **www.iite.ac.in.**

Interested individuals have to submit a detailed resume in the prescribed format (to a maximum of 50 pages) available on the university website. Institutions / Peers may also nominate suitable candidates. Nominations / Applications have to be sent in the prescribed format (two hard copies as well as a soft copy by E-mail) to the Registrar at the address given below so as to reach on or before **15/06/2026.** Applications received after the last date shall not be entertained.

Registrar
Indian Institute of Teacher Education,
Ramkrushna Paramhans Vidhya Sankul,
Nr. Mahatma Mandir, KH-Road, Sector 15,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat (382016),
E-mail-searchcommittee@iite.ac.in

Date: 13/05/2026 CHAIRMAN, SEARCH-cum-SELECTION COMMITTEE

AAI CARGO LOGISTICS & ALLIED SERVICES COMPANY LTD. (AAICLAS)
(A 100% Subsidiary of Airports Authority of India)
www.aaiclas.aero

Advertisement for following Posts in AAICLAS on PAN India level

AAICLAS is a fully owned Cargo subsidiary of Airports Authority of India, for development and operation of Air Cargo and related logistics business, AAICLAS requires the following manpower on Fixed Term Contract for a period of three years: -

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Total Number of Positions	Place of Posting	Opening Date of Application	Last Date of Application
1.	Security Screener (Fresher)	158	Dehradun, Kolkata, Patna, Trichy, Calicut, Udaipur	18.05.2026	08.06.2026
2.	Assistant (Security)	62	Tirupati, Trichy, Madurai, Bhubaneswar, Udaipur	11.06.2026	02.07.2026

For detailed advertisement and /or any future amendment, with regard to this advertisement, please visit the AAICLAS official website **www.aaiclas.aero** under "career" column in **Advt. No. 01 of 2026 for Security Screener (Fresher) & Advt. No. 02 of 2026 for Assistant Security**. The link to attend the online interview will be sent to the eligible candidates on their personal email IDs, after due scrutiny of Applications. Confirmation of details throughout the engagement process ONLY from official website of AAICLAS and not from any other sources.

Note: Apart from the recruitment of above posts, the recruitment of Certified Screeners through walk-in interview for various other stations on PAN India basis is also being conducted from time to time as per the requirement of the Company. Kindly visit AAICLAS website on regular basis for latest update for the same.

AAICLAS-CHQ

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A-11, Sector -24, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. - 201301
Ph.: 0120-2412294, 2412445, Fax: 0120-2412397, (CIN : L74899DL1974GOI007417)

Advertisement No.: 01 (NFL)/2026 Dated: 13.05.2026

Engagement of Management Trainees in NFL-2026

Online applications are invited from energetic, young & qualified Indian Nationals for recruitment to following positions in NFL:

Sl. No.	Post Name	Total Vacancies	Category Wise Vacancies						
			UR	SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	EWS	PwBD	ExSM
1.	Management Trainee (Marketing)	13	06	01	03	02	01	02	--
2.	Management Trainee(F&A)	03	--	01	02	--	--	--	--
3.	Management Trainee (Materials)	01	--	--	01	--	--	--	--
4.	Management Trainee (Information Technology)	01	--	--	--	01	--	--	--
5.	Management Trainee (Electrical)	02	--	--	02	--	--	--	--
6.	Management Trainee (Chemical)	01	01	--	--	--	--	01	--

Detailed advertisement shall be available on NFL website: **www.nationalfertilizers.com** → Careers → Recruitment in NFL → Engagement of Management Trainees in NFL-2026 from **13/05/2026** Online application portal shall be available from **13/05/2026** to **12/06/2026**. **Last date of submission of Online Application will be 12/06/2026**. Any corrigendum/addendum /errata/update for this recruitment shall be published only on the NFL's website.

DGM (HR-Pers)

NFL : A Navratna Company

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Recruitment of Specialists on Contract 2026-27 – SPPID, DCAS and RMD

NABARD, an all India Apex Development Financial Institution, wholly owned by Government of India, invites ONLY online applications from Indian citizens having necessary qualification and experience for recruitment of **08 Specialists on contract** (01 – Specialist – Finance Strategy, 01 - Specialist – Information Technology Strategy, 01 - Specialist – Human Resource Strategy, 02 - Specialist – Organization Strategy, 01 – Senior Climate Finance Specialist, 01 – Additional Chief Risk Manager, 01 – Risk Manager – Market Risk).

The Online Application Registration & Payment of Online Application Fees / Intimation Charges would be available from 14 May 2026 to 01 June 2026 on NABARD website.

For details related to Educational Qualification, Experience, Job Profile, Age, Application Fee, Selection Procedure, Remuneration, Service Conditions, etc. please visit https://www.nabard.org.

Place: Mumbai Chief General Manager
Date: 13 May 2026 Human Resources Management Department

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427

Scan QR to Apply

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers on Regular Basis

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for the following post on Regular basis:

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2026-27/05 (Regular position)

Name of Post	Number of vacancies	Grade
Trade Finance Officer	100	MMGS-II

For eligibility criteria (age, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings**. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link **"CONTACT US"** → **"Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's official website (**https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/post-your-query**)

- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 13.05.2026 to 02.06.2026.**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 13.05.2026 General Manager (RP & PM)

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
(An Advanced Research Institute Established by the Reserve Bank of India)
Deemed to be University
Gen. A.K. Vaidya Marg, Film city Road, Santosh Nagar, Goregaon (E), Mumbai: 400 065

Advertisement for Teaching and Non-Teaching Positions

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) invites applications for Teaching and Non-Teaching positions from eligible Candidates

Advt No: IGIDR/Faculty/2026/01 Dated: 12.05.2026

Rolling Advertisement for Faculty Positions of Professor & Associate Professor

Advt No: IGIDR/Faculty/2026/02 Dated: 12.05.2026

Rolling Advertisement for Special Recruitment drive for SC/ST/NC-OBC/EWS/PwBD for the post of Assistant Professor (Regular/Contract/Visiting)

Non-Teaching

Advt No: IGIDR/NT/2/2026 Dated: 12.05.2026

REGULAR / DEPUTATION FOLLOWED BY ABSORPTION	CONTRACT / DEPUTATION BASIS
1. P.S. to Director - Level 07 – 01 no 2. Human Resource Officer Level 10 – 01 no 3. Academic & Student Affairs Officer Level 10 - 1 no 4. Assistant System Analyst cum Software Engineer Level 10 – 1 no 5. Assistant Administrative Officer (Hr & Adminstration) Level 07 – 01 no 6. Account Assistant Level 06 – 01 no 7. Assistant (HR) Level 06 – 01 no	1. Research Grants & Project Officer Level 10 – 01 no 2. Placement Officer Level 07 - 01 no 3. Assistant Electrical Engineer Level 07 – 01 no 4. Library Assistant Level 04 – 01 no 5. Assistant Administrative Officer (Students & Academic Affairs) Level 07 – 01 no

Deadline: The Last date for Online Application is June 08, 2026

Application should be made ONLY through the Institute's website. For detailed information on qualification and experience, please visit the Institute website http://www.igidr.ac.in/careers/

Sd/- Registrar

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S. No.	Designation	Advertisement No.	No. of post(s)	Mode of Induction	Pay scale/ Remuneration (in IDA Scale)	Last date of Receipt of Application
1.	Project Director/ Civil (Patna)	DMRC/PERS/ 22 /HR/ 2026 (227)	One (01)	Direct Recruitment	₹ 1,20,000-2,80,000/-	26.05.2026
				Deputation	Parent department pay plus deputation allowance	
				Post Retirement Contractual Engagement (PRCE)	₹ 2,00,800/- per month	
2.	Manager/ Assistant Manager (Electrical)	DMRC/PERS/ 22/ HR/ 2026 (228)	Seven (07)	Deputation/ Post Retirement Contractual Engagement (PRCE)	For Deputation- Parent department pay plus deputation allowance	28.05.2026
	Supervisor (Electrical)		Thirty (30)		For PRCE- As indicated in the Advertisement	
3.	Executive/ Legal	DMRC/PERS/ 22 /HR/2026 (229)	Three (03)	Direct Recruitment	₹ 40,000-1,40,000/- (E 1 scale)	28.05.2026

The advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notification and particulars regarding the eligibility criterion, qualification, experience, age limit, mode of selection, etc., are available in the Career Section of the DMRC website: www.delhimetrorail.com.

General Manager (HR) Project
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Advertisement No. : DMRC/989/2026

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Last date for receipt of application: **31st May, 2026.**

Applicants who have applied for this post in the past six months need not reapply.

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Design	Animation & VFX (3D Animation & Modelling, Visual Effects (VFX), Game Design & Development, Motion Graphics), Fashion Design
Ayush	Ayurveda (Samhita & Siddhanta, Rachana Sharir, Kriya Sharir, Dravyaguna Vigyan, Rasashastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana, Roga Nidan & Vikriti Vigyan, Agada Tantra & Vyavaharayurvedam, Swasthavritta & Yoga, Kayachikitsa, Panchakarma, Shalya Tantra, Shalakya Tantra, Prasuti Tantra & Stree Roga, Kaumarbhritya), Bachelor In Naturopathy & Yoga Sciences.

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Advt-03/2026 Date 11/05/2026 – I/c. Registrar

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	Manager (IT)	Level-10

For detailed advertisement, please visit
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Chief Administrative Officer

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GOA
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Advt. No. IITGoa/RECT/2026/03 Dated: 30.04.2026

Indian Institute of Technology Goa, an Institute of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament in the year 2016 to provide education and promote research in various branches of Engineering, Sciences & Technology invites online applications from eligible Indian Nationals for the following Non-Teaching positions:

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3.	Administrative Assistant	04	C	27	2-UR	2
	Total				4	4

For details regarding essential qualifications, important dates and general instructions visit the IIT Goa's website https://iitgoa.ac.in/careers-iitgoa/. **Last date for submission of online application: 29.05.2026, 11:59 PM.**

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Corrigendum cum Addendum

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Reference is invited to the vacancy announcement by NISM issued in **Times Ascent** newspaper dated **May 01, 2026**. In partial modification, the following change is notified in respect of various positions in EPMD:

Name of the Post	No of Posts
Asst Manager / Dy Manager / Manager / AGM (Electrical)	1
Asst Manager / Dy Manager / Manager / AGM (Civil)	1

For further details, candidates are advised to visit NISM's website: **www.nism.ac.in/recruitment/**

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Vice Chancellor (I/c)

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No. 3941/MPPHSCL/Admin/2026/Bhopal Dated : 06.05.2026

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4.	Manager (Finance)	1	75,000/-	Contract/ Deputation
5.	Manager/ Divisional Coordinator	1	75,000/-	Contract/ Deputation
6.	Division Manager	7	75,000/-	Contract/ Deputation
7.	Procurement Consultant	1	47,000/-	Contract/ Deputation
8.	Logistics Consultant	1	47,000/-	Contract/ Deputation
9.	Human Resources (HR)	1	67,300/-	Contract
10.	Developer	2	65,000/-	Contract
11.	Legal Officer	1	56,100/-	Contract
12.	Finance Consultant	1	56,100/-	Contract
13.	Bio-Medical Engineer	2	56,100/-	Contract
14.	Bio-Medical Engineer (Divisional)	2	56,100/-	Contract
15.	Biomedical Consultant	1	52,000/-	Contract
16.	MIS-Data Manager	1	42,700/-	Contract
17.	Pharmacist	1	42,700/-	Contract
18.	Office Assistant	8	22,100/-	Contract

The educational qualifications, experience, and other details required for this position can be viewed on the MP Online website **iforms.mponline.gov.in** from 25.05.2026. The last date for submission of applications is **24.06.2026.**

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Detailed advertisement on our website on: **14 May 2026**
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Last date of online application: **3 June 2026** (11:45 PM)

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

EVEN A STOPPED CLOCK IS RIGHT TWICE A DAY — JOSEPH ADDISON

BLOW FOR BLAKE LIVELY AS JUDGE REJECTS HER BID TO HAVE JUSTIN BALDONI PAY HER LEGAL FEES DAYS AFTER SETTLEMENT

SYDNEY SWEENEY ADDS FUEL TO HER 'MAGA BARBIE' LABEL AFTER IT IS REVEALED THAT HER 'EUPHORIA' CHARACTER IS A REPUBLICAN

Returning the favour? In '71, Iran had sheltered Pak assets

Islamabad Denies Reports Of Iranian Fleet At Nur Khan Base

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The report of Pakistan giving sanctuary to Iranian military aircraft revives one of the subcontinent's great geopolitical ironies: more than five decades after Iran sheltered Pakistani military assets during the 1971 India-Pakistan war — with quiet encouragement from the Nixon administration — Pakistan now appears accused of returning the favour to Tehran as the US weighs military pressure on Iran.

Pakistani officials have expectedly denied the allegations, telling CBS News that the claims were implausible because the Nur Khan base sits "right in the heart of the city", making it impossible to conceal "a large fleet of aircraft".

The US administration has also stopped short of publicly accusing Islamabad of wrongdoing.

Iran reportedly dispersed civilian aircraft into neighbouring Afghanistan as well. An Afghan civil aviation official said an aircraft belonging to Mahan Air landed in Kabul before hostilities escalated and was later moved to Herat for safety after Pakistani airstrikes on Afghan territory raised fears Kabul airport itself could become a target.

For older South Asia hands, allegations of Pakistani perfidy carry a strong sense of historical deja vu. During the 1971 war, Iran under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi emerged as one of Pakistan's staunchest backers. Tehran supplied helicopters, fuel, ammunition and spare parts to Islamabad while publicly denouncing India's intervention. Some Pakistani aircraft reportedly took refuge at Iranian bases.

Declassified Nixon-era documents later showed Washington quietly encouraged Iranian assistance as the US and China sought to prevent a Pakistani collapse.

Back then, Iran and Pakistan were fellow members of the Cold War anti-Soviet alliance CENTO, and President Richard Nixon viewed both countries as strategic pillars against Soviet influence.

Half a century later, the ideological map has been scrambled almost beyond recognition. Iran is now America's principal West Asian adversary, Pakistan is China's closest security partner in South Asia, and Beijing has publicly praised Islamabad's role in facilitating indirect US-Iran contacts.

Pakistan's balancing act has become increasingly delicate. Islamabad relies heavily on Chinese military hardware — with roughly 80% of its major arms imports between 2020 and 2024 reportedly coming from China — while simultaneously seeking to restore military and intelligence ties with Washington that fell into disrepair during the Obama administration.

Pakistani officials have attempted to portray their engagement with Tehran as constructive diplomacy aimed at regional stability. Islamabad has periodically offered to mediate between the US and Iran, leveraging its unique position as one of the few countries maintaining working relations with both capitals.

But scepticism about Pakistan's reliability remains deeply embedded in parts of the American national security establishment, despite President Trump's recent fondness for the country, particularly its "Field Marshall" (sic). The shadow of Osama bin Laden still hangs heavily over US-Pakistan ties. US officials and lawmakers have long accused elements within Pakistan's security apparatus of maintaining selective relationships with Islamist militant groups, charges Islamabad consistently denies. The latest allegations have already stirred criticism on Capitol Hill. Senator Lindsey Graham warned that, if true, the reports would require "a complete re-evaluation" of Pakistan's role as mediator between Iran and the US.

AFP

Israel intensifies attacks in Lebanon as it trades fire with Hezbollah despite an April 17 ceasefire between Tel Aviv and Beirut aimed to halt the fighting

Netanyahu plays India card as Gaza war fuels global unease

Washington: Amid almost universal disquiet about Israel's land grab in West Asia, the country's PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, has pointed to India to argue that Israel is not globally isolated, while accusing Pakistan of conducting digital warfare to undermine American support for his country, reports **Chidanand Rajghatta.**

In a CBS '60 Minutes' interview aired Sunday, Netanyahu recalled his visit to India, calling his reception there a "love fest" to argue that Israel remains "enormously popular" in the country of 1.4 billion people while talking up his friendship with PM Modi, whose visit to Israel he also underscored. In contrast, he said Pakistan is part of a social media campaign to distort global perceptions of Israel and its war on Gaza. "They post something like 'I'm a red-blooded Texan who always supported Israel, but now I can't stand what they are doing'... And then you check and see it's a guy from a basement in Pakistan," he said.

Pentagon: War in Iran has cost $29bn so far

Washington: The US' war in Iran has cost $29 billion so far, a senior Pentagon official said on Tuesday, an increase of $4 billion from an estimate provided late last month.

With just six months before midterm elections in which President Donald Trump's Republicans may face an uphill battle to keep their House majority, Democrats are riding high in public opinion polls as they attempt to link the war with cost of living issues.

On April 29, the Pentagon said the war at that point had cost $25 billion. Jules Hurst, who is performing the duties of the comptroller, told lawmakers on Tuesday that the new cost included updated repair and replacement of equipment and operational costs. "The joint staff team and the comptroller team are constantly looking at that estimate," Hurst said. It is unclear how the Pentagon arrived at the $29 billion figure. REUTERS

Iran says US must accept peace plan or face 'failure'

Tehran: Iran's chief negotiator said on Tuesday Washington must accept Tehran's latest peace plan or face failure after US President Donald Trump warned the truce in the West Asian war was on the brink of collapse.

"There is no alternative but to accept the rights of the Iranian people as laid out in the 14-point proposal. Any other approach will be completely inconclusive; nothing but one failure after another," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in a post on X. "The longer they drag their feet, the more American taxpayers will pay for it." Iran sent its proposal in response to an earlier US plan, details of which remain limited. AFP

The insomniac-in-chief, a president who can't log off

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump's increasingly frenetic late-night social media barrages — described by critics as "s**tposting" — are becoming a defining feature of his second term, fuelling fresh questions about his focus, stamina, and political instincts at a delicate moment for his administration.

On Monday night alone, Trump posted or reposted roughly 55 times between 10.15 pm and 1.15 am on his Truth Social platform, according to media trackers, touching on everything from accusations that former president Barack Obama attempted a "coup" against him in 2016, to conspiracies about the 2020 election, demands for arrests of political opponents, and a stream of self-congratulatory and self-aggrandising memes depicting himself on Mount Rushmore and replacing Benjamin Franklin on the $100 bill.

The posting spree followed a Mother's Day weekend dump during which Trump flooded his account with more than 40 messages, none of them related to the holiday. Instead, he fixated on grievances against political enemies, praise from admirers, plans for a lavish White House ballroom, and his controversial proposal to redesign the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in what he called "American Flag Blue".

The spectacle has deepened unease inside Washington's political establishment, where even some Republicans privately concede that the president's online behaviour increasingly resembles that of a perpetually aggrieved influencer rather than the commander-in-chief of a country juggling wars abroad, trade tensions with China, and stubborn inflation at home.

Trump's aides reject suggestions that the late-night posting reflects exhaustion or instability, insisting that the president is highly energetic and deeply engaged. White House officials have also pushed back aggressively against viral clips appearing to show Trump briefly dozing off during public events, dismissing them as misleading moments of "blinking" or "resting his eyes".

Still, the images — coupled with Trump's nocturnal online habits — are feeding a broader narrative about a soon-to-be-80 (June 14) president whose public appearances oscillate between bursts of theatrical aggression and moments of visible fatigue.

Late-night comedians, long one of Trump's favourite foils, have seized on the contradictions, with Jimmy Kimmel joking about "how long you have to be on the toilet to post that much", while Seth Meyers has repeatedly lampooned Trump's fixation on cognitive tests and self-promotion. Another wag quipped that Trump's Truth Social feed resembles "your uncle discovering energy drinks and conspiracy podcasts at the same time".

The jokes are landing at an awkward political moment for Trump. Recent polling has shown erosion in public confidence on the economy, particularly over affordability and gasoline prices — issues that helped power his return to office. Even within the MAGA movement, there is visible frustration that kitchen-table concerns are increasingly competing for attention with Trump's personal obsessions, online feuds, and vendettas against perceived enemies.

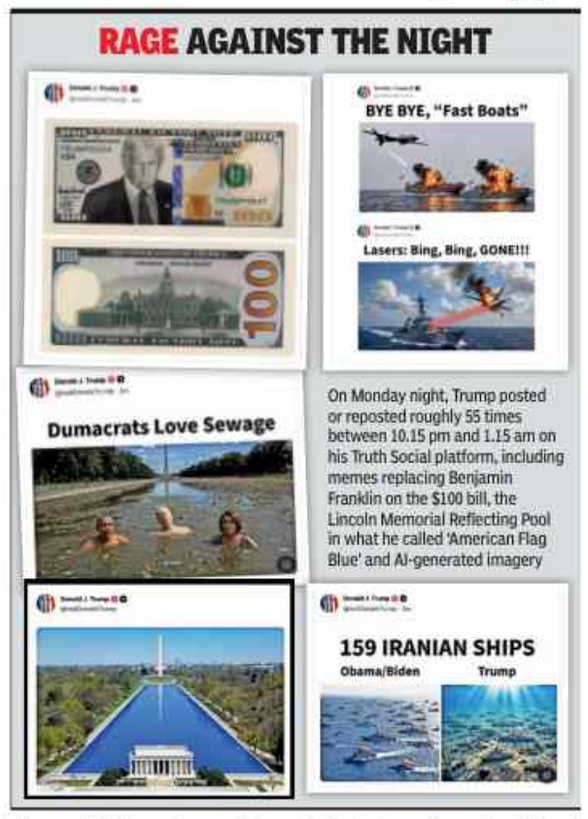
Conservative commentators who once celebrated Trump's social media dominance are beginning to sound uneasy. Some pro-Trump influencers have quietly warned that endless reposting of election conspiracies and AI-generated imagery risks making the administration appear distracted and unserious ahead of Trump's upcoming high-stakes visit to China, where he is expected to confront tense negotiations over tariffs, technology restrictions, and military competition in the Pacific.

Diplomats and foreign policy analysts say the contrast is becoming increasingly stark: while Beijing projects disciplined, tightly controlled statecraft under President Xi Jinping, Washington often appears consumed by Trump's personal stream of consciousness.

That impression has been amplified by reports that the president has shown diminishing interest in ongoing conflicts overseas, even as he remains focused on symbolic domestic projects such as the White House ballroom renovation and cosmetic redesigns around the National Mall. Critics say the president appears more animated discussing architectural aesthetics and civic works than military briefings.

Trump's supporters argue that the criticism misses the point: the president's relentless posting demonstrates authenticity, direct communication, and refusal to submit to establishment norms. But detractors see something else: a presidency increasingly consumed by grievance, spectacle, and performance art.

For now, the White House insists Trump remains fully in command. Yet in Washington — where perception often hardens into political reality — the image of an aging president posting dozens of conspiratorial messages deep into the night while aides explain away apparent public drowsiness is becoming difficult to ignore. And with the China trip looming, allies and adversaries alike will be watching closely to see whether Trump arrives as a disciplined leader of a superpower — or as the internet's most powerful insomniac and a provocative troll.



On Monday night, Trump posted or reposted roughly 55 times between 10.15 pm and 1.15 am on his Truth Social platform, including memes replacing Benjamin Franklin on the $100 bill, the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in what he called 'American Flag Blue' and AI-generated imagery

UAE said to have hit Iran earlier in war as Israel ties grow

The UAE retaliated against Iranian attacks on its territory earlier in the West Asia war, according to people familiar with the matter, coordinating with Israel as the two countries deepen security ties.

The UAE attacked Iran more than once, both before and after the April 8 ceasefire between the US, Israel and Tehran, one of the people said. One of those was an Israeli-coordinated response to an Iranian strike on the UAE's Borouge petrochemicals facility last month, according to the people.

News that the UAE has carried out military strikes on Iran was first reported by Wall Street Journal. The UAE's participation as an attacker in the war — during which it was targeted by Iran more than any other country in the region — comes as the oil-rich Gulf state deepens its security ties with Israel. That included intelligence sharing, the early detection and interception of Iranian attacks, and cooperation in selecting Iranian targets.

After Tehran criticised the UAE's ties to Israel and the US last week, Abu Dhabi said its "international relations and defence partnerships are an exclusively sovereign matter, and no party has the right to use them as a pretext for threats, interference, or incitement."

The UAE is one of only a few Arab countries to formally recognise Israel, having signed the Abraham Accords in 2020. Its ministry of foreign affairs didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed held a rare phone call last week with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who expressed solidarity after Iranian attacks on the UAE.

On Tuesday, Washington's ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, said Israel had sent Iron Dome missile defence batteries to the UAE during the war, along with personnel to operate them. The two countries coordinated on a May 6 Israeli attack on Iran's biggest petrochemical facility in Asaluyeh, in response to Tehran's attack on the UAE's Borouge plant, one of the people said. The UAE retaliatory attacks also included one on an Iranian refinery on Lavan Island in the Persian Gulf, the person said. BLOOMBERG

Bloomberg

US envoy to Israel Mike Huckabee (above) said on Tuesday that Tel Aviv sent Iron Dome anti-missile batteries to the UAE and personnel to operate them to defend the country during the Iran war

Kuwait says Iran attacked an island where China is helping to build a port

Kuwait accused Iran of launching a failed attack earlier this month on an island where China is helping build a port. The accusation brought Tuesday came just before US President Trump was to depart for Beijing, where he'll meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a high-stakes visit over the war and other issues. Iran didn't immediately acknowledge the allegation by Kuwait, which came under attack by Iran in the war and during the shaky ceasefire still holding. Kuwait said a paramilitary Revolutionary Guard team tried to infiltrate Bubiyan Island near Iraq and Iran on May 1. Kuwait said it detained four men and that two escaped when its forces disrupted the attack. Bubiyan Island is home to Mubarak Al Kabeer Port, which is under construction as part of China's "Belt and Road" initiative. AP

Netherlands isolates 12 after hantavirus protocol breach

Amsterdam/Madrid: A Dutch hospital has quarantined 12 staff members in a preventive measure after blood and urine from a hantavirus patient were handled without observing strict protocols.

The 12 will be quarantined for six weeks, the Radboudumc hospital in the city of Nijmegen said, adding the infection risk was very low.

The World Health Organization said it has now confirmed 11 cases, including three people from the cruise who died. It said more cases could come because of the long incubation period but that this was not a pandemic and was nothing like Covid-19. In the latest report of a potential case, Italy said a 25-year-old Italian man who had flown on a KLM flight with a woman who died of hantavirus had been taken to hospital with symptoms.

Ship sets sail for Netherlands

After the last passengers disembarked the ship in Spain's Canary Islands, the Hondius set sail for the Netherlands late on Monday evening with 25 crew, a doctor and a nurse. Two planes carrying 28 passengers and crew who left the ship in the Canary Islands arrived in the Netherlands Tuesday, shortly after midnight.

Quarantined

Spain said late Monday a Spaniard had tested positive, one of 14 quarantining at a hospital in Madrid. The patient had developed fever and breathing issues but was stable. REUTERS

Italy recognises 3 parents for child in landmark ruling

Rome: An Italian court has granted a four-year-old child three legally recognised parents — two fathers and one mother — in a landmark ruling that has angered conservative Catholics.

The child was born in Germany and lives there with two men who are married, one of whom is the biological parent who fathered him with a woman who is a friend of the couple.

The non-biological father, who is Italo-German, then adopted the child under German law, but he applied for that adoption to also be recognised in Italy. A local authority rejected the request, suspecting that the child was born from surrogacy carried out abroad.

A court of appeal overturned the decision. REUTERS

In setback for Balen, Nepal SC stays ban on student politics, trade unions

Vishant.Agarwala
@timesofindia.com

The Nepal Supreme Court has stayed PM Balendra Shah govt's decisions to dissolve civil service trade unions and student organisations in universities, handing Shah the sharpest legal setback in his first 45 days in office over measures that were pushed through ordinances.

The orders came amid protests by employee and student groups days after SC also restrained govt from evicting landless squatters and informal settlers without due process and rehabilitation safeguards.

President Ram Chandra Paudel had issued the ordinances on Shah's recommendation, allowing govt to amend laws and enforce key parts of its reform agenda without taking them through the parliamentary process. Opposition parties and Gen Z activists slammed this route as "undemocratic", saying a govt elected on a reform mandate could not use executive speed to bypass parliament.

Shah said: "Banning party flags in schools and bureaucracy will not seize the rights of students and workers but strengthen professional freedoms." He said the move is aimed to end partisan influence in education and bureaucracy, where student and employee groups had become "sleeper cells" of political parties.

Employee and student leaders rejected this argument. Uttam Katwal, chairman of Nepal Civil Service Employees' Association, said it was wrong to describe registered trade unions as party-based bodies. Student leaders said govt should regulate campus politics rather than abolish student bodies. Lokesh Kumar Khadka, president of Free Student Union at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, accused Shah of showing a "dictatorial nature" by denying space for political ideology in universities. Majid Ansari, a final-year student who petitioned in the eviction case, said: "Laws should be made delivery-oriented, and authorities should be restructured from ordinary people's point of view."

Starmer defiant as calls for his resignation grow, several ministers quit

London: British PM Keir Starmer told members of his cabinet on Tuesday he had no intention of resigning as calls grew louder within his Labour Party for him to step down.

Starmer tried to shore up support within his cabinet following a febrile few days in the wake of hefty losses for the Labour Party in local elections last week, which, if repeated in a national election, would see it overwhelmingly ejected from office. Several junior ministers stepped down from their posts Tuesday, calling for a change in leadership, though no candidate had yet come forward to challenge Starmer directly. The resignations stoked speculation that Starmer could suffer the fate of Boris Johnson in 2022 when dozens of ministers quit en masse and forced him to quit.

Around 80 Labour lawmakers have now said Starmer should stand down or at least set out a timetable for his departure, but that's not enough to trigger a leadership contest. Under Labour's rules, a fifth of its lawmakers in the House of Commons, or 81 members, must publicly give their backing to a single candidate, and that hasn't happened yet.

On Tuesday, Miatta Fahnbulleh, minister of housing, communities and local govt, became the first member of his govt to step down, urging Starmer "to do the right thing for the country" and set a timetable for his departure. She was followed by Jess Phillips, the safeguarding minister, whose resignation letter called Starmer a "good man fundamentally" but vented about his inability to make bold changes. "I know you care deeply, but deeds, not words are what matter," Phillips said. "I'm not sure we are grasping this rare opportunity with the gusto that's needed and I cannot keep waiting around for a crisis to push for faster progress."

The third to quit was British health department minister Zubir Ahmed. "It is clear to see that whatever the magnitude of individual achievements and progress, they are now being dwarfed and undermined by a lack of values-driven leadership at the centre," he said on X. "It is clear from recent days that the public across the UK has now irretrievably lost confidence in you as Prime Minister."

Despite winning a landslide election victory in July 2024, Labour's popularity has sunk, and Starmer is getting much of the blame. The reasons are varied, including a series of policy missteps, a perceived lack of vision, a struggling British economy and questions over his judgment — especially over his appointment of Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to Washington despite the envoy's ties to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

At the start of the Cabinet meeting Tuesday, Starmer said he took responsibility for the losses in last week's local elections across the UK but that he would fight on. "The country expects us to get on with governing," Starmer said. AP

WORLD DIGEST

Reuters

9 DEAD IN BLAST IN PAK: A bomber detonated an explosive-laden autorickshaw in a busy market in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, killing at least nine people, including two security officials, and wounding 33 others, police said. The incident occurred in the Serai Naurang tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district

LA-area mayor will plead guilty to acting as China govt agent

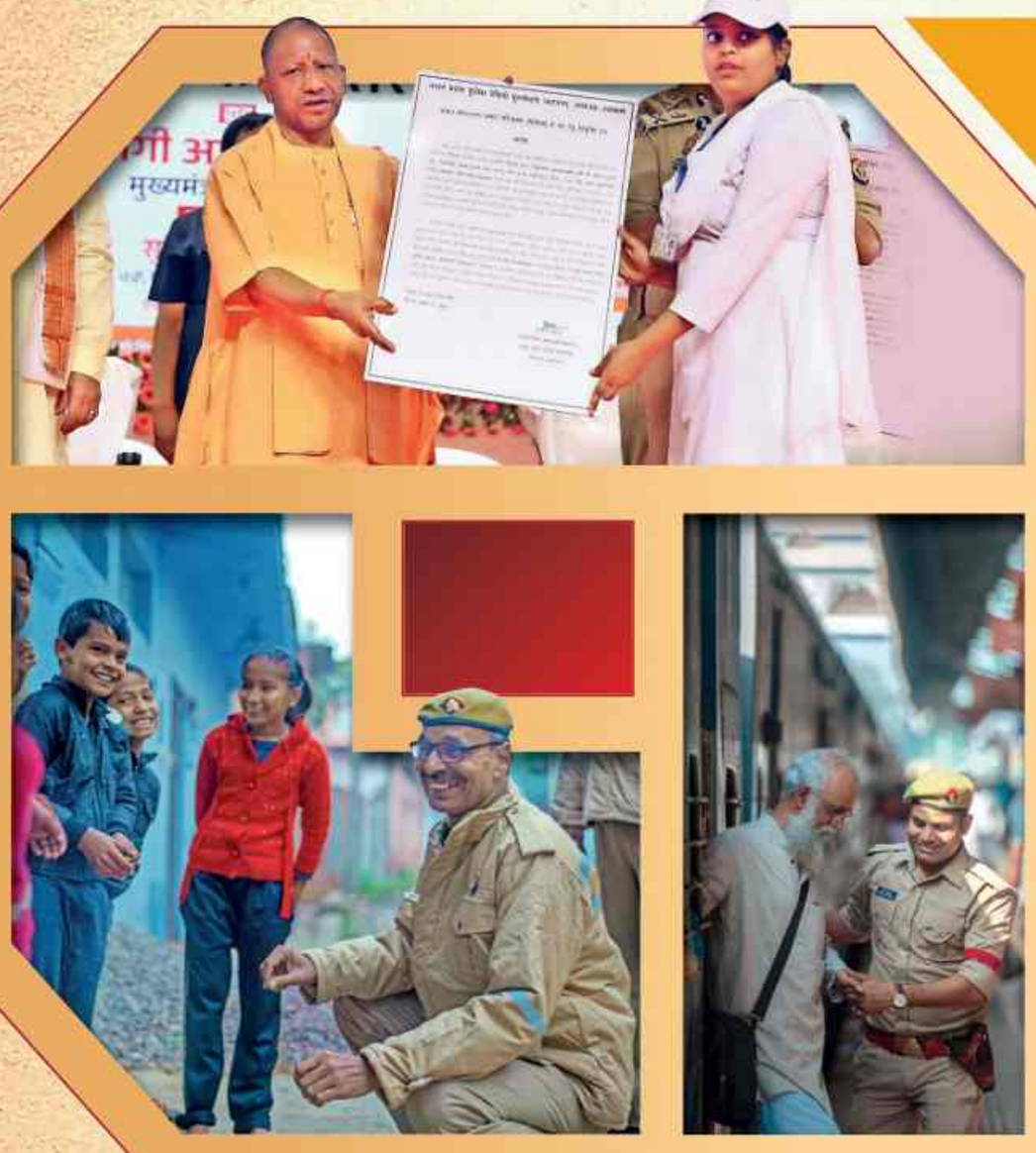
The mayor of Arcadia, California, a heavily Chinese-American suburb of Los Angeles, has agreed to plead guilty to a federal charge of acting as a foreign agent of China, spreading propaganda on behalf of Beijing, US officials said Monday. Within hours of the case being made public, Eileen Wang, 58, resigned from Arcadia's city council, along with the position of mayor she assumed in Feb. She appeared briefly before a federal magistrate judge who instructed attorneys to agree to a date for a future hearing when Wang would formally enter her plea. In the plea deal, Wang agreed to plead guilty to a single felony count of acting as a foreign agent of the Chinese govt without prior notification to the US justice department. The charge carries a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison.

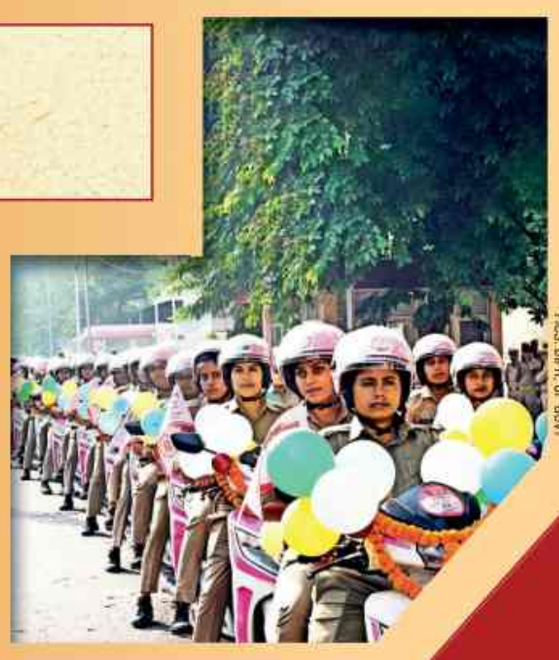
Russia will deploy new Sarmat nuke missile this year: Putin

Russia will deploy its new Sarmat strategic nuclear missile at the end of this year, President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday, describing it as "the most powerful in the world". The planned deployment of the missile — designed to deliver nuclear warheads to strike targets thousands of miles away in the US or Europe — follows years of setbacks and delays. Putin, in televised comments, said the yield of the warhead was more than four times greater than any Western equivalent and its range exceeded 35,000 km (21,750 miles).

UTTAR PRADESH'S

DEFINING TRANSFORMATION OVER





PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

YEARS

GOLDEN ERA OF LAW & ORDER

- A steadfast 'zero tolerance' stance against crime and criminals
- Systematic eradication of mafia, ensuring a fear-free environment
- A sustained record free of communal riots and caste-based conflicts
- Reforms like UP 112 bringing police control response time down to just 6 minutes and 41 seconds
- Seizure of unauthorised assets worth ₹14,580 crore under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act
- Strengthening law & order through measures such as the police commissionerate system implemented across seven major cities in Uttar Pradesh
- Sustained crime control leading to 267 encounters of hardened criminals and the incarceration of 22,306 wanted offenders
- Against 68 identified mafia and their gang members/associates, a total of 875 cases have been registered against 1,459 individuals, 638 have been arrested
- Expansion of policing infrastructure with 134 new police stations, 86 new police outposts, and 78 women's police counselling centres, among other initiatives

Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership since 2017, in the last nine years, Uttar Pradesh has transformed from a notorious crime hub to India's safest state through a resolute 'Zero Tolerance' policy. Hardened criminal networks and mafia empires have been decisively dismantled via precise crime-control measures and swift actions against illegal properties, restoring fearlessness among citizens. Police forces have been revolutionised with cutting-edge surveillance networks, rapid-response vehicles, and women's safety initiatives like Mission Shakti and dedicated helplines. Modern training academies, forensic advancements, and community-focused reforms have elevated UP's law enforcement, slashing overall crime rates, boosting convictions, and paving the way for unprecedented peace, investment, and upliftment for millions.

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

CONTRAPUNTO

There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full

– HENRY KISSINGER

Failing Again

NEET cancelled. NTA's institutional failure is traumatic for students. It's also costing the economy

Two years ago, on June 13, 2024, over a month after NEET was held on May 5, Dharmendra Pradhan emphasised there had been no 'leak' of the all-India medical entrance exam paper. By June 25, CBI was on the case, as the enormity, and messy fallout, of the multi-state exam-leak ops surfaced – the first FIR filed by Bihar cops on May 5 itself. Should one see this year's cancellation – impacting 23L applicants – as an improvement? That the leak was confirmed quickly, and cancellation announced within days? That GOI and National Testing Agency spared us denials?

There seem to be fundamental flaws in NTA – its architecture, priorities, management, administration and cybertech-security. What else can explain the repeated failures on the same issues, year after year? Teething problems don't stretch a decade – NTA, as a central, nodal body to conduct all college and professional entrance exams was established in 2017. Its functioning has been marred by question paper leaks, cheating, fraud, and an ever-faltering algorithm-led mapping of applicants to test centres, forcing applicants on long pricey commutes. Taken together, NTA has made getting into college/higher education an expensive obstacle race – with a high mental health cost, for school-leaving teens, and their families.

It is little wonder that families, those who can conceive of it, are increasingly exploring overseas options for higher education. A Niti Aayog Nov 2025 working paper cites RBI numbers to show that Indians' spending on overseas education has been meteoric over the last decade. In 2013-14, Indians sent about ₹975cr abroad for higher studies. By 2023-24, this had jumped to around ₹29k cr – over 20 times more, and equal to almost half of GOI's higher education budget. It's reasonable to say, and anecdotally evident too, that the unreliability inbuilt in NTA-conducted exams, is a push factor. But only 3 of every 100 Indian students study abroad. The 97% that hope to get into college somewhere in India, have suffered around 20 exams put off, including for Covid-related logistics, over the last 10 years – cancellations, postponements, and re-tests. GOI must review NTA's basic blueprint, not only to spare school-leaving teens and young adults this annual trauma, but also because such institutional failures hurt the economy.

Opportunity/Crisis

Iran war will probably hurt growth, but proactive policies can absorb much of its impact

It's clear that 2026 won't be a great year for the economy. It started with projections of 6.8-7.2% growth. A day before US attacked Iran, the chief economic adviser actually *raised* his estimate to 7.1-7.4%. But now, with oil shock and falling rupee, Moody's sees India's growth slowing to 6% this year. Reasons are clear – high input costs will raise prices, high inflation will depress demand.

What can govt do? To start with, make rupee's weakness India's strength. A year ago, $1 was worth ₹85, roughly. Now, it's around ₹96. That makes Indian exports cheap, and competitive. Foreign manufacturers would like to set up shop here, so roll out the red carpet. Now is also the time to wean India off imported oil and gas, decisively. PM has urged farmers to switch to solar pumps, but EVs and biofuels should be thrust areas as well. Meanwhile, if Russia is willing to sell oil for rupees, we should sign some long-term contracts. And, to earn more dollars, let's court tourists, including medical tourists, this year.

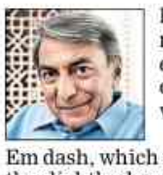
What about consumption demand, biggest driver of India's economy? Inflation is bound to hurt it, especially at the lower end of consumption pyramid, despite generous cash transfers by Centre and states. But, as the pandemic showed, premium demand remains resilient, so companies should target it to drive growth. Post-GST momentum in white goods and automobiles should be maintained. The top 1% are likely to spend more when they're feeling wealthier due to strong stock markets. So, small policy tweaks – for instance, raising EPFO investments in stocks – can have the desired effect.

Oil, gold, fertiliser, cooking oil – four things govt wants you to buy less – and electronics together make up about half of India's import bill. Since most of these can be intermediate goods – crude for plastics, cooking oil for cookies – if foreign investment, manufacturing, and consumption increase, India's import bill may go up. But higher imports could be easily offset by increasing export earnings. We can play safe by hunkering down, and settle for 6% growth, or take some risks and aim for 7%.

Dash it all

Prose pundits have us spaced out on verbal space

Jug Suraiya



Even as India is poised to launch its first human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, social media has embarked on a very different type of space exploration – the use of horizontal lines of varying length to separate the space between words on the written or printed page, as in this sentence.

Called dashes, these word separators come in two sizes: the Em dash, which is the long dash equivalent to the broad-beamed letter M, and the slightly shorter En dash, equivalent to the printed letter N.

The Em dash is most commonly used in place of the comma, when there are too many of those cluttering up a sentence and giving it an untidy look as though it's not combed its hair properly.

The Em dash creates a suspended clause in a sentence, a verbal bridge linking two banks of a scripted river: The salad – made of lettuce, tomatoes, and carrots, drizzled with EVOO – was delicious.

Em dashes are also used for dramatic effect or to provide emphasis at the tail end of a sentence: Dracula leapt out from the dark upon his victim – who shrieked in terror. Em dashes can be satisfyingly bloodcurdling when judiciously used.

secondopinion

En dashes are used to connect numbers, places, and dates: This column is about 350-360 words long. The Delhi-Mumbai flight arrived on time, proving that the age of miracles is not over. The Financial Year 2026-2027 is going to be a bummer for the economy.

The En dash is not to be confused with the hyphen – derived from the Greek 'hupen' (together) – which looks like the En dash that's been on a crash diet, and joins words or syllables to create adjectival compound words: Even at his age, Amitabh Bachchan is still a great-looking guy. I've got a state-of-the-art smartphone.

Hyphens can be tricky. A man-eating tiger is a very different proposition from a man eating tiger. And a fine-tooth comb is not the same as a fine tooth-comb with which presumably one could comb one's teeth.

But remember – never, *ever* insert a hyphen between India and Pakistan.

Our Seven Tolerable Sins

We have had time to prepare for the challenges we may face now with the conflict in West Asia. But we didn't get our house in order. Hopefully, there is still time to do the heavy lifting and rise to PM's appeals

Shinjini Kumar

My parents got married in 1963. Ahead of the wedding, as the radio beamed bad news from the battlefront, there was no gold purchased for the marriage ceremony. I grew up hating gold jewellery because the deferred dream of a gold chain made my exceptional mother sound ordinary.

As a central banker, I read about poor macroeconomic outcomes arising from Indian households' obsession with gold and I felt validated. It has taken a lot of growing up to develop a more nuanced understanding, grounded in Indian reality.

So, just when I was contemplating some nice gold anklets to de-risk my investments, I heard PM's appeals to brace for the potential ill-effects of the war that slithers from one crazy event to another. Not sure if the callback to the seven deadly sins is intended, but there is a flurry. Some are interpreting it as the right thing to do, while others see this as precursor to tougher measures.

Yet others question the timing, or want to plug gold-based stablecoins, or write memos to promote remote work as nationalism. Not being an expert on war, diplomacy, crypto or commodities, I decided to put the spotlight on the citizens, affected only emotionally for now, but materially, if doomsday cometh with rising prices, falling rupee, increasing current account deficits and capital controls.

ENERGY WARS

1. Work from home | Everyone is an expert, either extolling the virtues of virtual technologies that make it possible to work from a beach with a blurred boyfriend in the background, or fretting that moonlighting engineers will destroy the nation. Sadly, there is no one-size-fits-all, and culture eats remote work strategy for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This one is definitely not a quick win!

2. Less gold | Whether the reasons be black, white or grey, the attractiveness of gold is not just because of ease of acquisition and ability to acquire liquidity against it. Sandwiched between high regulatory burden and high frauds (in banks, on apps, in stock markets, debt markets, counterfeit currencies or risk of demonetisation), it has not been easy for households to trust the financial system. Fortunately, there are other ways to monetise the household gold. And hopefully we see some effective ones soon.

Image: AI

3. Less fuel, more public transport | Great idea, except public transport or potential for carpooling virtually does not exist beyond the Top 10 cities. There are other things to be considered, like one cigarette packet or a sprig of curry *patta* being carried by a speedy delivery worker. But the industry has worked hard to set that behaviour, as if it is the only brag point for being Indian. Let's see how they take it!

4. Less cooking oil | This is my favourite. As prosperity increased, Indians got more wheels and machines. And diabetes and hypertension. Finally, 'adieu bhajia, welcome cheela!'

5. Less foreign travel, more domestic tourism | We have a beautiful country, but something more than terrible govt-sponsored advertisements will be required to attract the middle-class tourists, who can get cheaper, safer, more exciting options in Thailand. Starting with garbage disposal and ensuring women's safety will do, thank you.

6. Less chemical fertilisers, more natural farming | Great idea, except this is not how reversal of chemicals-based farming works. And there is no telling when the same govt will come back to sell more fertilisers to the same farmers. Soil is not a pressure cooker!

7. Less foreign products, more swadeshi | Oh no, just when we went through the tariff agreements with the bullies, now we need to tell our patriotic souls to buy expensive Indian products over cheaper imported alternatives! Let's keep trying.

In summary, there are no easy answers. We have lots of questions to ask ourselves. None of this geopolitical disturbance is unprecedented or unpredictable. In modern world, energy has been a major underlying cause of conflict.

With the AI juggernaut rolling in, it will only get worse. We have had loads of time to think about how India wants to live, holiday, study, save, invest, travel or work. But how prepared are we? What levers do we have? Indian families are often admired for managing within limited resources, looking after their own, and often second cousins too, rarely going belly up. But as citizens, do we care? And does this have something to do with our lack of trust in the institutional structures that have failed us at every level? Mostly, it feels like we are on our own. And that shapes behaviours and responses to national crises.

Indian families are often admired for managing within limited resources, looking after their own, and others too, rarely going belly up

We have had enough time to build public institutions, restore our monuments, clean our rivers, rejuvenate our forests, revive our music, crafts, arts, but we have been happy with the spurious joys of events; local and national, with the flex boards and fake flowers!

We have had enough time to build a trusted financial system, but we have been busy writing tough rules. We have had enough time to bring back Indian professors to teach Indian students in Indian classes, but we have been busy clapping for venture- and private capital-led boom and bust of EdTech.

With Covid, we had enough time to build a reliable work-from-home architecture, but we rushed back to the holy corporate plazas, carrying our low-trust management models in our backpacks.

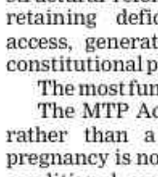
We have had the time. We have not done it. Hopefully, we will have the time yet to do it. Time. And intention. And urgency.

The writer is a former banker

The Act That Denies Women Choice

A pregnant 15-yr-old's ordeal again underscored the conceptual flaw in our abortion law. MTP law, despite amendments, makes terminating pregnancy an arbitrary process. Everyone has a say, except the woman

Nikhil Datar



In 2021, after five decades of silence, India amended the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act. The revision extended abortion access to 24 weeks for women under certain conditions, and beyond that, for foetal anomalies. The amended law appeared to respond to decades of clinical realities and judicial nudging.

Yet, a closer look reveals the amendment is less a structural reform, and more a calibrated patchwork retaining deficiencies that continue to restrict access, generate legal uncertainty and undermine constitutional principles.

The most fundamental flaw is conceptual.

The MTP Act remains an exception-based statute rather than a rights-based one. Termination of pregnancy is not recognised as a woman's right but is conditional upon statutory grounds and medical opinion. This embeds medical paternalism within the law, where the doctor functions not only as a clinical adviser but as a legal gatekeeper. Such a model sits uneasily with judicial interpretation of Article 21, which recognises that autonomy and bodily integrity are integral to the right to life.

This conceptual weakness is compounded by imprecise drafting of the statute. India drew upon the British Abortion Act of 1967. The word "abortion", in plain English, means the deliberate ending of a pregnancy, so that it does not result in a live birth. Intent and outcome are embedded in the word itself.

Indian Parliament chose not to use the word "abortion" in the Act. Instead, it coined the term 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP)', defined it as any procedure using medical or surgical methods to terminate a pregnancy – silent on both intent and outcome. Thus, a caesarean section to save a distressed baby, removal of a dead embryo or surgery for an ectopic pregnancy would technically qualify to fit into the definition of 'MTP'. But, when foeticide is performed to reduce the number of foetuses in case of multifoetal pregnancy, it isn't MTP.

The inadequacy is most stark in cases involving child survivors of sexual assault. The law restricts MTP in this most vulnerable group only up to 24 weeks, unless the woman's life is in immediate danger. But a 15-year-old who discovers her pregnancy at 26 weeks is not facing immediate death. She is facing a different kind of devastation: a body not ready for pregnancy, a mind not ready for motherhood, and a law that forces her to continue. Courts have had to, repeatedly, step in – including a recent Supreme Court order permitting termination at 30 weeks for a minor rape survivor with no foetal anomaly.

Marital status still governs access for women seeking termination between 20 and 24 weeks. Only if a woman's marital status has changed – meaning widowhood or divorce – can she seek termination. Single women and those in live-in relationships are excluded. This is not just retrograde – it is unconstitutional, considering Supreme Court's 2022 ruling, in 'x' vs Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, which held that all women, married or not, are entitled to safe and legal abortions.

I helped a woman in identical circumstances to file a writ petition in Bombay HC. Court directed Centre to remove marital status as a criterion for termination. More than two years since that order, the rules remain unchanged.

The amended Act creates an entity called 'Medical Board' to approve terminations beyond 24 weeks, comprising a gynaecologist and several non-gynaecologist specialists. The gynaecologist is the only member legally empowered to perform or certify a termination – yet the other specialists, none of whom has ever performed even a single MTP, can collectively outvote the gynaecologist.

The law prescribes no decision-making framework, no requirement for reasoned refusal, and no mechanism for appeal. It is a structure designed for arbitrariness and denial.

The confidentiality provision is equally misconceived. Rules require that an MTP patient be identified by number, rather than name. Imagine a hospital where every patient's case paper bears a name – except one who has a number. Does that conceal her situation or advertise it? The regulation achieves the opposite of its purpose.

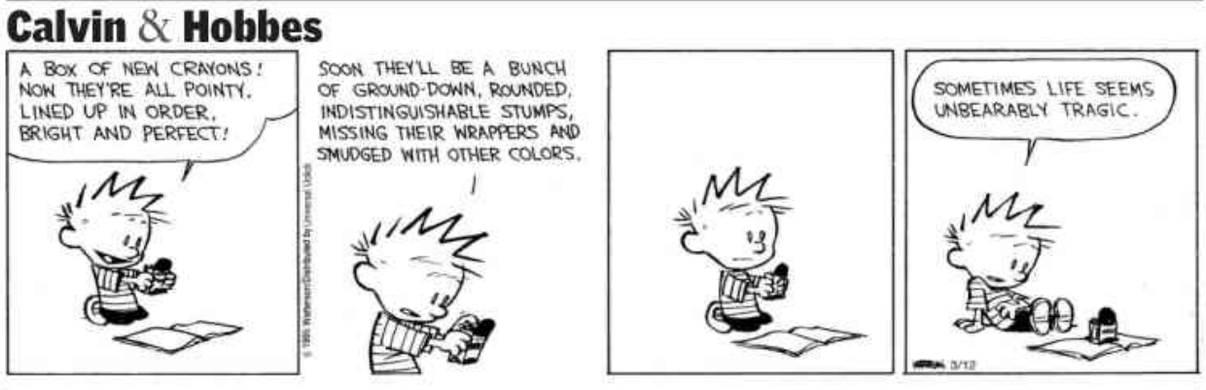
Meanwhile, since her name cannot appear on prescriptions, bills or discharge papers, the woman cannot claim medical expenses from her employer or insurer. The Act bars disclosure to anyone except "persons authorised by law" – a term it never defines – leaving the practitioner exposed to criminal liability, with no clear protection.

In 2016, Supreme Court, in Dr Nikhil Datar vs Union of India, struck at the rigid 20-week ceiling the MTP Act had imposed. Since then, the judiciary has ruled consistently, based on medical evidence and constitutional principle. Yet a woman's right to her own body should not require a court petition. It is a repetitive, expensive exercise, available only to those with the means and knowledge to litigate.

The 2021 amendment was a step, not a destination. Until law recognises that reproductive autonomy belongs to the woman – not to the doctor, the Board, spouse or state – it will continue to fall short of delivering justice.

The writer is a gynaecologist based in Mumbai

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

The only way you can invent tomorrow is if you break out of the enclosure that the school system has provided for you by the exams written by people who are trained in another generation.

Neil deGrasse Tyson

Overcoming The Fear Of Missing Out

Pulkit Sharma

Living in a world where we get frequent, endless smartphone updates about what others are doing is becoming challenging. What we see online is often picture-perfect, grandiose, carefully selected and curated stories of achievement, success, relationships, travel, possessions and wisdom. Creators of these stories generate these narratives not because they represent the true reality of their lives, but because the main, behind-the-scenes aim of this digital content is to seek attention, admiration, fame, and narcissistic gratification through many clicks, views, likes, shares, and retweets.

But as we browse through these 'highlight' pictures, reels and narratives daily, a sense of smallness and worthlessness begins to creep in. We compare our routine lives with the epic fiction we see online and somehow come to believe that, while everyone else is living a substantial life, we are confined to a mundane, meaningless, and mindless existence. This sense gives rise to a fear of missing out, FOMO, which makes us grossly dissatisfied with who we are, what we possess and whatever we do. Many people report feeling intense internal pressure to change the course of their lives and a desire to create a reality that outperforms what they see on social media.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Sadly, when this fear of missing out becomes a guiding principle in your life, your focus shifts to 'reel' life, and you begin to neglect your real life, relationships, goals, and aspirations. While getting validation and applause for the life you live can boost your self-esteem, seeking too much attention can lead you into a herd mentality. You develop an addiction to likes, retweets, and followers, get derailed from your core values and deeper aspirations while chasing the limelight, and end up feeling extremely stressed and exhausted.

You forget what is truly valuable, get into a deadpan existence, and an aura of depression starts haunting you. Therefore, to stay sane, it is crucial to understand and deal with the fear of missing out.

To overcome this fear, take longer breaks from your smartphone and return to self-reflection. Identify what deeply and truly matters to you. What are your core values, goals, aspirations and potentials. With this self-knowledge, you need to scan all pushes and pulls, cravings and desires which surface in your mind. If you feel that doing something will bring you closer to the realisation of your deeper aspirations, go ahead. But if you think that what you wish for is frivolous and impulsive and does not align with your true quest, learn to reject it strongly.

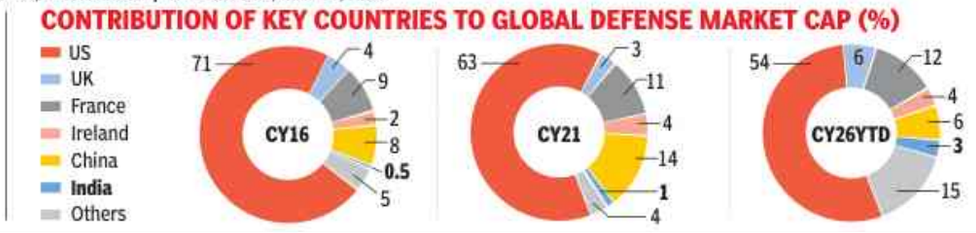
When you start living life authentically, the charm of external approval and endorsements fades away. Your mind stops being a puppet whose strings are tied to prevalent trends. You have the freedom to decide how to spend your time, shape your life, and achieve self-growth. You start to value your uniqueness, your inner beauty, and your precious existence. This gives you a sense of profound calm, freedom and happiness. With this newfound Self-realisation, notifications on your smartphone cease to be anxiety-provoking.

The writer is a clinical psychologist based in Puducherry

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

The market capitalisation of global defense players has expanded at a CAGR of 19% over 2021–2026 YTD to $3.5tn (₹3.3k lakh crore), compared with a 7% CAGR between 2017-2021. US dominance has moderated as other regions have caught up, with India's share rising to over 3% in the last decade



Note: The analysis covers 106 listed defense companies globally
Source: Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Rupee's rough ride continues, slips to new low of 95.73 vs $

Mumbai: The Indian rupee hit an all-time low on Tuesday as fading hopes of a peace deal between the US and Iran sparked a run-up in oil prices, which, along with persistent portfolio outflows and weakening sentiment, pressured the currency.

The rupee fell to 95.73 per dollar, eclipsing its previous record low of 95.43.

Likely intervention by the central bank helped limit further losses, traders said, with the local currency ending the trading session at 95.62, down 0.3% from its previous close.

The rupee is Asia's worst performing major currency in 2026 and has weakened nearly 5% since the Iran war broke out on Feb 28.

The rupee and other currencies of oil-importing countries have been among the hardest hit following a near 50% surge in Brent prices since the war began. The Philippine peso and the Indonesian rupiah have also been impacted severely, with the latter hitting a record low on Tuesday as well. "Defensive currencies, specifically the INR, IDR, and PHP, are currently trading with a heavy bias. These regional pairs will be looking for relief in the form of oil prices declining sustainably below $100 to ease imported inflationary pressures and improve current account outlooks," a DBS note said. REUTERS

US inflation hits 3.8% over war-led hikes

US inflation continued to accelerate in April amid an ongoing climb in gasoline prices driven by the US-Iran war and a jump in the cost of groceries. Consumer price index rose 3.8% from last year, marking the fastest pace since 2023. From a month earlier, prices were up 0.6%.

The core CPI, which excludes food and energy, increased 0.4% from a month earlier and 2.8% from a year earlier, boosted in part by a statistical quirk in the report's measure of rents resulting from the 2025 govt shutdown. The Bureau of Labour Statistics report indicated gas prices rose more than 5% last month after a 21% jump in March. BLOOMBERG

Fragile ceasefire leaves D-St on edge, sensex falls 1.5k pts

Crude Prices Over $105/Bbl | FPI Outflows Slower, But Persistent

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: As tensions prevailing in West Asia rattled global markets, sending crude prices soaring and the Indian rupee to new lows, sensex lost another 1,456 points (1.9%) to close below the 75K mark, at 74,559 points.

In two sessions this week, sensex has lost nearly 2,800 points or over 3% while in four sessions since May 7, the loss was almost 3,400 points or 4.4%. Investors' wealth, measured by BSE's market capitalisation, since hitting a recent high of Rs 475 lakh crore on May 7, is now down by Rs 19 lakh crore at about Rs 456 lakh crore. Although the day's selling was strong and across-the-board, a relatively positive event was the comparatively lower net foreign fund outflow, at Rs 1,959 crore, BSE data showed. In contrast, on Monday although sensex had lost 1.7%, the net foreign fund outflow was Rs 8,438 crore. According to Siddhartha Khemka of Motilal Oswal Financial Services, domestic markets extended losses for the fourth consecutive session as lack of progress in the US-Iran negotiations continued to create nervousness across global markets. "Escalating tensions in West Asia have heightened fears of a prolonged geopolitical conflict, keeping investors risk-averse and triggering sustained selling across financial markets."

Fresh tensions in West Asia also lifted crude oil prices to over the $105/barrel level, leading to continuous foreign fund outflows, Khemka said. "Unless there is any meaningful progress in negotiations volatility and weakness in domestic equities are likely to persist."

On Tuesday, of the 30 sensex stocks, 29 closed in the red, with SBI—up only marginally—the only exception. Of the index constituents, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance and Infosys contributed most to the day's loss, data showed.

29 OF 30 INDEX STOCKS IN THE RED

Top 5 Sectoral Losers	% Change
BSE Realty	-4.2
BSE Information Technology	-3.7
BSE Focused IT	-3.6
BSE Services	-3.5
BSE Consumer Durables	-3.4

Source: BSE, Agencies

Top laggards	% Change
Tech Mahindra	4.4
Adani Ports	4.4
HCL Tech	4.1

➤ **Investors lost ₹19 lakh cr** in the last four trading sessions as the sensex fell 3,399 points, or nearly 4.4%

Kospi falls on AI 'Citizen Dividend' comment

A top South Korean policymaker said the nation should pay citizens a "dividend" using taxes on AI profits, underscoring growing pressure to redistribute gains from a boom that's enriched chipmakers like Samsung and SK Hynix The comments by presidential policy chief Kim Yong-beom fuelled sharp swings in Korean stocks on Tuesday. The benchmark Kospi sank 5.1%, then pared losses to close 2.3% lower after the Yong-beom clarified he wanted to tap "excess tax revenue" from AI boom, rather than impose a new windfall levy on corporate profits. BLOOMBERG

April consumer price inflation hits 3.5%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Retail inflation, based on consumer price index (CPI), inched up for the third consecutive month to 3.5% in April from 3.4% in March on account of acceleration in food prices, data released by NSO showed Tuesday.

The food index rose 4.2% in April, above 3.9% in the preceding month. Fuel inflation decelerated sharply to 0.7% from 1.7% despite the conflict in West Asia persisting. Core inflation, after stripping out food and fuel, has remained below 4%. The data showed that "personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services" inflation decelerated to 17.7% from 18.6%.

"Core inflation also rose only modestly, suggesting that manufacturers across sectors such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products continue to absorb a significant part of the increase in input costs," said Debopam Chaudhuri, chief economist at Piramal Finance. Restaurant services saw sharp acceleration in inflation to 4.2% from 2.9% during this period. "This was a fallout of higher LPG prices for these establishments which led to higher prices being charged," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

Prices in rural areas rose at a sharper pace (3.7%) compared to urban areas (3.2%). Data showed that there was decrease in prices of consumer durables such as cars (down 7.1%) and air conditioners (5.1% lower). Upasna Bhardwaj, chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, said that though the April inflation reading came in softer than expectation, the outlook remains clouded with upside risks amid supply side disruptions from geopolitics and El Nino.

Major shock coming through oil price rise, says Uday Kotak

TNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi: Banker Uday Kotak on Tuesday cautioned that there is a "major shock" coming through an increase in oil prices, while calling for lowering the dependence on foreign capital.

"In last two months, we have not seen impact of the Middle East (West Asia) war in terms of energy price transition, it's coming and it's coming big. Consumers have not felt the pressure at all. Think about a consumer with limited income to spend directly on fuel and indirectly on other items. The shock is coming, we had old inventory, we had the ability for oil companies to be the shock absorber. It's a large amount of money and you are not far away from a shock, unless the Iran war stops tomorrow morning," he said at the CII annual meeting.

The comments come amid rising expectations of a fuel price increase in the coming days due to heavy under-recovery by oil retailers.

The Kotak Mahindra Bank founder and director also said that India needs to reduce its dependence on foreign capital and focus on building a strong domestic pool of long-term risk capital to achieve true economic self-reliance.

> The shock is coming, we had old inventory, we had the ability for oil companies to be the shock absorber. It's a large amount of money and you are not far away from a shock, unless the Iran war stops tomorrow morning
>
> —UDAY KOTAK FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

He said a genuinely self-reliant country is the one that "does not need to depend on somebody else's money or power" and referred to PM Narendra Modi's call to avoid destination weddings overseas and hold them in India.

Kotak said, "India has financialised too early." He said many companies have become excessively focused on quarterly earnings, stock prices and employee stock option gains, instead of building businesses with a three-to-five-year perspective. "I would strongly urge companies not to be excessively focused on short-term stock price... but think about building a company for three to five years."

Kotak said India had relied heavily on foreign portfolio investments for many years and domestic investors started to play a larger role in capital markets only after the pandemic. The veteran banker also advocated strengthening the country's domestic private equity, venture capital and alternative asset ecosystem, saying these institutions are essential for funding entrepreneurship and long-term economic growth.

Kotak urged companies to reinvest profits rather than simply manage large portfolios. "Corporate India has got a phenomenal tax rate. What have you done with it? Are we reinvesting or running corporate treasuries?"

Gen Z pros embrace 'portfolio careers'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: India's Gen Z workforce is embracing what experts describe as "portfolio careers" — balancing multiple professional identities and income streams simultaneously.

New research from LinkedIn shows that 75% of Gen Z entrepreneurs in India now manage multiple income streams, significantly higher than the 62% among Gen X entrepreneurs. The findings point to a growing preference among younger professionals for flexibility, autonomy and diversified sources of income. "We're also seeing the rise of the 'portfolio era', with more professionals creating multiple income streams and redefining what a career can look like. This shift is making entrepreneurship more accessible than ever before," said LinkedIn India country manager Kumaresh Pattabiraman.

Rather than depending on a single full-time role, many professionals are simultaneously building businesses, freelancing, consulting, creating online content and monetising specialised skills through digital platforms. The trend comes amid a broader rise in entrepreneurial activity in India. LinkedIn recorded a 104% year-on-year increase in members adding "Founder" to their profiles — the highest growth among all global markets.

> **AI tools and flexible work models are reshaping career ambitions among younger professionals**

AI is also emerging as a major enabler of this shift. The report found that 85% of Gen Z entrepreneurs consider AI and digital tools important to their business operations, while four out of five founders said entrepreneurship now feels accessible regardless of background.

The growing availability of AI-powered tools is lowering traditional barriers such as cost, expertise and access to networks, making it easier for professionals to experiment with side ventures while continuing other forms of work and income generation.

The study also suggests that younger entrepreneurs are redefining success itself. While financial independence remains important, Gen Z respondents placed equal emphasis on freedom, flexibility and personal growth. Around 64% said freedom and flexibility define success, followed by personal growth at 56% and financial wealth at 55%.

Networking and personal branding are becoming increasingly central to sustaining these careers. The study found that 80% of entrepreneurs considered professional networks important to starting or growing their businesses. Additionally, 67% identified themselves as content creators, underlining how visibility and audience-building are now closely tied to entrepreneurship. Censuswide conducted the research among 500 small business owners, entrepreneurs and solopreneurs in India between April 8 and April 16.

India GCCs to benefit as US plans H-1B wage hikes

Global Firms May Rethink Hiring Models As Overseas Centres Become Attractive

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Bengaluru: Amid a significant proposed increase in US H-1B wage levels, India's global capability centres (GCCs) could emerge as major beneficiaries as MNCs rethink global workforce strategies.

GCCs are evolving on a new talent scorecard, with a sharper focus on smaller teams delivering outcomes and creating new benchmarks for productivity in a visa-agnostic environment. India now has 2,117 GCCs that employ more than 2.3 million professionals and generate revenues nearing $100 billion.

The higher H-1B wage costs are expected to push MNCs to accelerate offshore and nearshore expansion strategies across regions such as India, Eastern Europe and Latin America, prompting US firms to rebalance workforce deployment models globally. For many global firms, expanding distributed delivery centres outside the US may become a more cost-efficient and scalable alternative as onsite hiring expenses rise under the proposed framework.

According to immigration services firm Boundless, the US Department of Labor's regulatory analysis projects substantial economic implications from the proposed wage rules. On a per-worker basis, the proposal could increase compensation costs by an estimated average of $14,000 annually for each affected H-1B position. David J Bier, director of immigration studies at Cato Institute, said, "My analysis is that the rule will bar about 80% of H-1B wage offers, including many of the highest skilled H-1B workers. I agree that this will increase offshoring and decrease US tech employment overall compared with if it did not adopt the rule."

The proposed H-1B wage revisions would sharply increase prevailing wage levels across all categories. Entry-level wages (Level I) would rise from $73,279 to $97,746, marking a 33.4% increase. Level II wages would increase from $98,987 to $123,212, while Level III wages would rise from $121,979 to $147,333. For fully competent workers under Level IV, wages would increase from $144,202 to $175,464, representing a 21.7% jump.

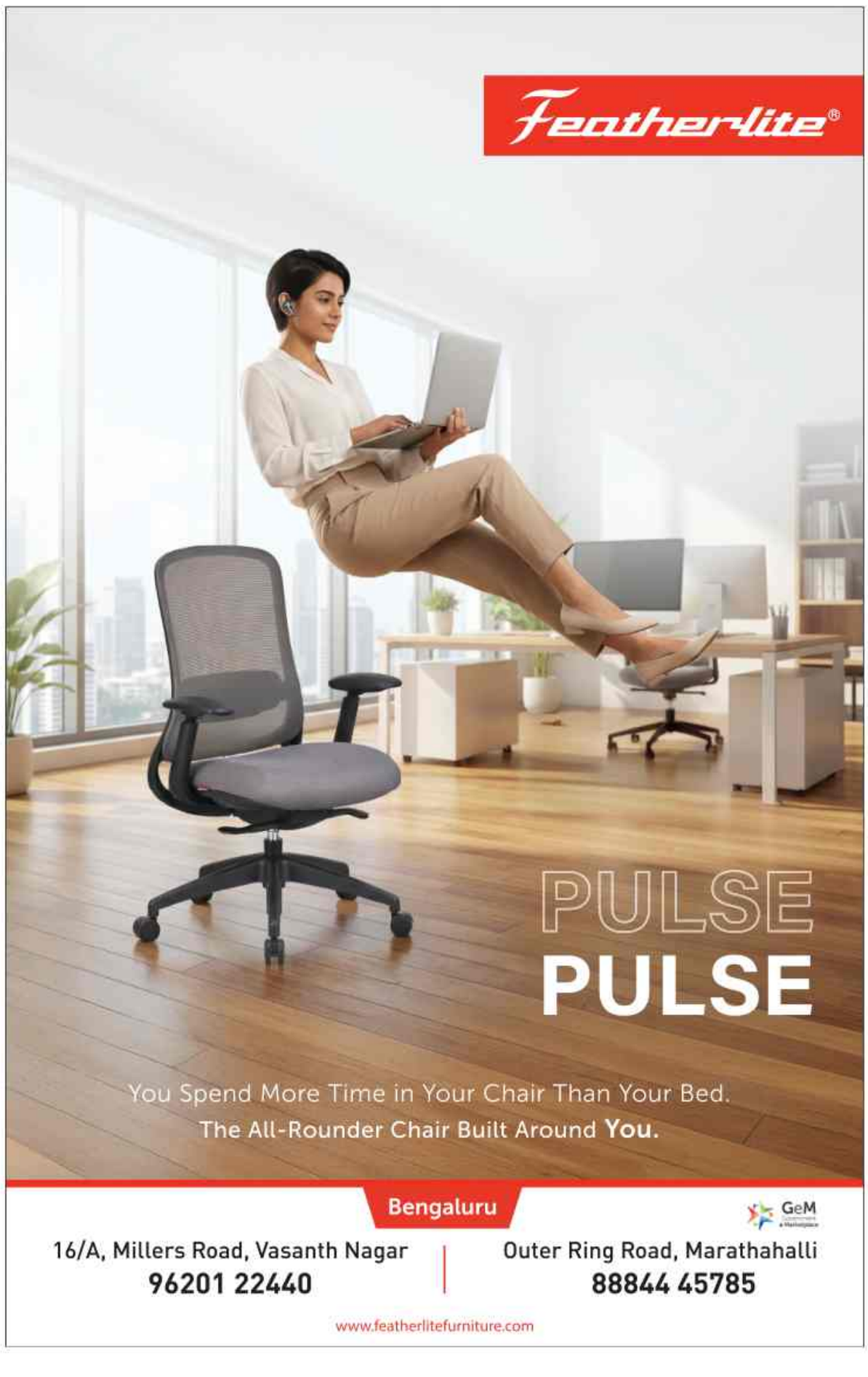
Stephen Yale-Loehr, retired immigration law professor at Cornell Law School, said the labor department's proposed rule is aimed at increasing wages for foreign-born workers. "However, it will also put wage pressure on US employers. US companies will either hire fewer US workers or offshore more of their work to India and other foreign countries. Ultimately this rule will hurt, not help, US workers."

Back home, many in the IT sector believe the long-standing talent pyramid structure has begun to fade. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, partner at tech growth advisory firm Catalincs, said that in the new era of intelligence and imagination, traditional talent models are giving way to a combination of humans and agents augmented by AI tools. "In this context, it is unwise to look at incremental compensation cost as traditional models were built on input cost while the new models are based on business output and outcome. We are beginning to see newer compensation benchmarks being defined for these newer competencies and roles, and only over time will we be able to make meaningful comparisons."

Vikram Shroff, partner, employment, labour and benefits at AZB & Partners, said AI is creating new business models and countries like India, with a strong talent base, are likely to benefit as MNCs look to scale while maintaining cost arbitrage.

COSTLIER H-1B, MORE INDIA JOBS

- The proposed US H-1B wage hike could make hiring foreign workers in America much more expensive, pushing companies to expand teams in India instead
- India already has over 2,100 global capability centres (GCCs) employing 2.3 million people and generating nearly $100 billion in revenue. The new US rules could accelerate this growth
- Firms are shifting from large employee pyramids to leaner teams using AI tools and automation to deliver faster outcomes
- Under the proposal, entry-level H-1B wages may rise more than 33%, while senior-level wages could cross $175,000 annually, increasing pressure on US employers
- Analysts and immigration experts believe higher visa wage requirements could reduce hiring in the US



Rising chip costs hit budget phone market

Brands Cut Launches Amid Margin Pressure

Aabhas.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

Offline Sales' Share On The Rise

Total shipments	**31 million** units in Q1, 2026 (4.1% YoY decline)
Offline channel share	**62%** (58% last year)
Online channel share	**38%** (42% last year)
Entry-level (sub-₹**10,000**)	Market share fell from **18% to 8%**

Mass-budget, entry-premium, mid-premium, premium and super-premium categories have either maintained or seen rise in market share

Source: IDC

New Delhi: India's entry-level smartphone market suffered a collapse in the first quarter of 2026. Rising component costs and weakening consumer demand reshaped the country's handset landscape, according to new data from IDC.

India's overall smartphone shipments declined 4.1% year-on-year to 31 million units in Q1 2026, but the steepest pressure was concentrated in devices priced below sub-Rs 10,000 ($100). Shipments in the entry-level segment plunged 59% from a year earlier, with the category's market share shrinking from 18% to just 8%. IDC said rising global memory prices made it increasingly difficult for brands to sustain profitability in the low-cost category, forcing companies to cut launches and reduce channel participation in the segment. "Device makers relying on entry-level volume face shrinking margins and reduced market viability as memory costs continue to rise," the research firm said in its report.

The squeeze at the bottom end of the market is also changing consumer buying behaviour. IDC noted that many buyers who traditionally purchased sub-Rs 10,000 smartphones were pushed into higher price brackets because affordable options were no longer widely available. That helped the Rs 10,000-Rs 20,000 ($100–200) "mass-budget" segment grow 10% year-on-year, increasing its market share from 39% to 45%. IDC described the trend as "forced premiumisation", driven less by upgrade aspirations and more by price inflation in the affordable category.

The broader market continued shifting toward higher-value devices, despite softer overall demand.

Crisis in West Asia a live BoP stress test: CEA

New Delhi: The ongoing West Asian crisis is a "live balance of payments stress test" for the country — directly impacting inflation, the exchange rate and the current account, chief economic advisor **V Anantha Nageswaran** said at the CII Annual Business Summit Tuesday.

"Managing the current account credibly, financing it and preventing further currency depreciation are the central macroeconomic imperatives of FY27. India's fiscal consolidation path, infrastructure investment and the reform record of recent years provide the foundation," he said.

Nageswaran called India's exposure to the West Asian crisis structural and cautioned that the "readings" are not of a temporary shock that will self-correct when the situation stabilises. "They are the early-stage consequences of a sustained disruption to one of the world's most critical energy and commodity corridors," he added. TNN

Nazara Q4 revenue down 17%, profit grew 13-fold

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Bengaluru: Nazara Technologies reported a 79% rise in revenue to Rs 3,073 crore for FY26, aided by a sharp increase in other income during the year. Profit for the year rose 61% to Rs 82 crore.

For the March quarter, revenue stood at Rs 448 crore, down 17% year-on-year, while profit surged more than 13-fold to Rs 56 crore. The company said quarterly revenue was impacted by the divestment of its esports subsidiary Nodwin Gaming last year. "We will double in FY27, both in terms of revenues and Ebitda, not even accounting for any growth," chief executive **Nitish Mittersain** told TOI, referring to the upcoming consolidation of Spain-based gaming companies Bluetile and BestPlay into Nazara's financials. Nazara reported Ebitda of Rs 255 crore for FY26, up 66% year-on-year, while quarterly Ebitda rose 52% to Rs 78 crore. The company said gaming contributed 90% of Ebitda in FY26, up from 56% a year earlier, reflecting its growing focus on gaming businesses spanning mobile gaming, PC and console publishing, and offline gaming. Mittersain said gaming could contribute nearly all of Nazara's Ebitda after the Bluetile and BestPlay consolidation. "It will become 99%," he said.

Nazara has spent the past year simplifying parts of its broader portfolio following a period marked by acquisitions, restructuring and changes in subsidiary holdings. "It was a turbulent year. It was not an easy year," Mittersain said, referring to developments including the deconsolidation of Nodwin Gaming and impairment related to PokerBaazi parent Moonshine. He added that Nazara plans to gradually divest non-core businesses and redeploy capital into gaming. Globally, gaming companies remain cautious after an industry slowdown triggered partly by Apple's IDFA privacy changes, which made targeted advertising and user acquisition more difficult for mobile gaming firms. Mittersain said the current environment of layoffs and cost rationalisation across gaming companies was also creating opportunities to acquire gaming assets and talent at more attractive valuations.

Uber CEO on week-long India visit

Mumbai: Uber CEO **Dara Khosrowshahi** is on a week-long visit to India, firming up the ride-hailing company's strategic investment plans for the country amid stiff competition from local startup Rapido which is fast gaining market share and already understood to have raced past Uber and Ola in terms of monthly active users between Jan and Feb this year.

Khosrowshahi met a host of ministers in Delhi, including finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu and consumer affairs minister Pralhad Joshi, holding discussions on Uber's operations and mobility initiatives in the country. Khosrowshahi will also visit Mumbai and head to Uber's tech centres in Bengaluru and Hyderabad later this week, said people in the know. A spokesperson for Uber India declined to comment on the details. TNN

Fractal Q4 net profit doubles to ₹116 crore

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Fractal Analytics, which listed earlier this year, reported a 17% year-on-year increase in revenue to Rs 886 crore for the March quarter, while profit more than doubled to Rs 116 crore. For FY26, revenue rose 19% to Rs 3,300 crore and profit increased 30% to Rs 287 crore.

The Mumbai-based analytics firm said underlying demand for enterprise artificial intelligence remains stronger than headline growth suggests, even as weakness in its technology, media and telecom (TMT) business weighed on quarterly performance.

Founder and chief executive **Srikanth Velamakanni** said revenue growth could have been closer to 27% without disruptions in the TMT segment. "If those issues were not there, if it was well executed, then we would have been at 27%," he told TOI.

Fractal is increasingly repositioning itself from a traditional analytics services provider into an enterprise AI transformation platform built around outcome-based pricing and software-like economics. "The conversation will move from input-based to output-based in this industry in the next three-four years," Velamakanni said.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 000936	Supply of Debarked Acacia Pulpwood (Forest auctioned material) from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.	22.05.2026
262713 000938	Supply of Debarked Eucalyptus Pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.	27.05.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. For further details, please visit website : www.tnpl.com

DIPR/1871/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO. 03/2026
Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 38252199A opening date on 05/05/2026 published in advertised tender notice no. EPS/02/2026 the amendment made is as under:

Tender No. & Short Description	Tender Opening Date	
	From	To
38252199A, Description:- MODIFIED ELASTOMERIC PAD (DESIGN-A)	05/05/2026	20/05/2026

Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in"
(SD)
For Principal Chief Material Manager, West Central Railway, Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Government of Rajasthan
National Health Mission, Rajasthan
Department of Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur.
Tel. No. 0141-2225736, E-Mail ID: ce-mh-raj@gov.in
No:- 718 Date:- 07.05.2026
Short Tenn E-NIT No-10/2026-27 on EPC MODE
Online tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced contractors registered in Public Works Department/State Government/Authorized organizations of Central Government/ Central Public Works Department/Department of Posts and Telecommunications/ Railways etc. in appropriate category for Building Construction works on EPC Mode in Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, who are equivalent to the contractors of appropriate category of Rajasthan Government.

Total number of Works	02
Total NIT cost (Rs. in lakhs)	6720.00
Date of online download & upload	08 May 2026 to 18 May 2026 Evening 6:00 PM
Date of technical Bid opening	19 May 2026 11:00 AM

Details related to the tender can be seen on DI PR website www.dipronline.Org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website http://rajswasthya.nic.in.
UBN:-

S.No.	UBN Number
1	MHS2627WLOB00763
2	MHS2627WLOB00175

Sd/- Chief Engineer Medical and Health Rajasthan, Jaipur
DIPR/C/8189/2026

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division 16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001
BCCC/EE/ELE/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two cover/Short term)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Executive Engineer (Ele), BCCC, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation/KPWD/ CPWD/Railways/ MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/ state government organizations for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	Providing Ornamental and Architectural Facade lighting to Government Major/Multi storey Buildings of Bengaluru under **BRAND BENGALURU-VIBRANT BENGALURU** in BCCC limits. **Amount Put to Tender : Rs.600.79 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 9.02 Lakhs (Rs. Nine Lakh and Two thousand only) (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs (Rs. One Lakh only) shall be paid through online Payment in KPP Portal and remaining Rs. 8.02 Lakhs (Rs. Eight lakh and Two Thousand only) shall be paid through Bank Guarantee) The Bidder shall Submit the EMD Part BG on or before the submission of tender.**
2.	Providing Ornamental and Architectural Facade lighting to Heritage Buildings of Bengaluru under **BRAND BENGALURU-VIBRANT BENGALURU** in BCCC limits. **Amount Put to Tender : Rs.600.77 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 9.02 Lakhs (Rs. Nine Lakh and Two thousand only) (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs (Rs. One Lakh only) shall be paid through online Payment in KPP Portal and remaining Rs. 8.02 Lakhs (Rs. Eight lakh and Two Thousand only) shall be paid through Bank Guarantee) The Bidder shall Submit the EMD Part BG on or before the submission of tender.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal from: **16.05.2026 by 16.30 hrs. (2)** Last date for submitting clarification if any: **22.05.2026 by 16.00 hrs. (3)** Date & time of Pre-bid meeting: **25.05.2026 at 11.30 AM** at Office of Executive Engineer(Ele),16th floor, PUB, M G Road, Bengaluru-560075. **(4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP): **01.06.2026 by 15.00 hrs. (5)** Date & time of opening of Tenders : Technical Bid **02.06.2026 at 16.00 hrs. (6)** Date & time of opening of Tenders: Commercial Bid (if possible) **05.06.2026.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.), BCCC

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No.PMM12-e-32/2026: 220kV & 132kV SF6 gas Circuit Breakers, Creepage - 31mm/kV. **Date & Time of availability of above tender: 13.05.2026 at 5:00 PM**, Website: **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**. Contact No.: CE/Transmission: **0866- 2429230.** Sd/-
RO No: GMCC/APTRANSCO/32/26-27 CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
मुरलीपुरा स्कीम, सब्जी मण्डी, जयपुर।
क्रमांक :– जसअ / 2026 / 68 दिनांक: 08.05.2026
ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या 07–09/2026–27
केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के विभागों में पंजीकृत "एए" व "ए" श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से विभिन्न विकास कार्यों की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण राज्य सरकार के ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.raj.nic.in** तथा नगर निगम जयपुर की Web Site **www.jaipurmc.org** पर देखी व **Download** की जा सकती है तथा निर्धारित अवधि तक ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर अपलोड की जा सकेगी। **SPPP portal UBN No. JMC2627WSOB00116 to JMC2627WSOB00118**
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Date: 13.05.2026
TICEL invites e-Tenders for a **Continuous High Throughput Centrifuge System** (Tender No. TICEL/CC/2026-27/01) and a **High-Pressure Homogenizer** (Tender No.TICEL/HO/2026-27/02) for TICEL Phase-III, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Visit **tntenders.gov.in** for more details. Last date for submission: **13.06.2026 by 3:00 P.M.**
DIPR/1864/Tender/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/03/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) - Call-3 (Through GOK KPPP only)
The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No	Name of the services	Estimate amount of services (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Providing exposure visit service for Pourakarmikas as part of the capacity-building programme. - Call-3	489.34	06 Months	7,34,010.00
2	Providing exposure visit service for the Executive officials and Technical officials as part of the capacity-building programme. - Call-3	140.17	06 Months	2,10,255.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **16.05.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal. (2)** Pre bid meeting: **16.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. **(3)** Last date for submission of the bids: **20.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bid on : **21.05.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/626/SSC/2026-27 Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Tel: (080) 22213009, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602
No:DYES/AP/ES/280/2025-26 Date:12.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)
Subject: The Assistasnt Executive Engineer, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre ,Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the various works at Bangalore and Dakshina Kannada districts, Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount put to Tender	EMD	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid
1	Outdoor Stadium Roof Repair and Tower Light Stand Repair at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium (Call-2)	Rs.236.69 Lakhs	Rs.3,55,044	27-05-2026 Time 16:00 Hrs	29-05-2026 Time 11:30 Hrs
2	Construction of Taluk Stadium at Hoskote Bengaluru	Rs.234.86 Lakhs	Rs.3,52,295	11-06-2026 Time 16:00 Hrs	12-06-2026 Time 16:30 Hrs
3	Repair of 400m Synthetic Athletic Track, Repair of Drain and other allied Civil works at district Stadium Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada District (Call-3)	Rs.249.48 Lakhs	Rs.3,74,220	26-05-2026 Time 16:00 Hrs	27-05-2026 Time 11:30 Hrs

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.
Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/CP/604/CCL/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602
No: DYES/SW/ SSC/03/2026-27 Dated: 06.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)
Subject:- The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Belagavi with all Necessary Human resource.
Particulars : Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Belagavi with all Necessary Human resource. EMD : **Rs 1,00,000/-. a)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E- Procurement Portal: **Dt. 22/05/2026:time 17.00Hrs. b)** Opening of Pre-Qualification Offers: **Dt. 23/05/2026: time 17.10 Hrs. c)** Opening of Commercial Offers: **Will be intimated**
The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.
Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.
Sd/-
Deputy Director (Welfare)
DIPR/CP/621/Zen/2026-27 Department of Youth Empowerment and sports

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
E - TENDER NOTICE No.
RWF/M/OT/AFM/2026-27/12 Dated: 11/05/2026
E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works). **Tender No.** RWF/M/OT/AFM/2026-27/12 Dated: 11/05/2026 **Name of the work** : Half-Yearly Shutdown, Maintenance, and Repair Works of Long Forging Machine (LFM) and Other Machineries in Axle Forge Shop (AFS). **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 16,25,685.98 **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 32,500.00 **Date &Time of Closing of Tenders :** 02/06/2026 at 10.30 Hrs. **Completion Period :** 1 year
Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/AM
TENDER NOTICE No.
RWFPCEEELTD2026-2701 Dated: 11/05/2026
E-TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works) **Tender No.** RWFPCEEELTD2026-2701 Dtd.:11/05/2026 **Name of the work** : Rewiring of Railway Quarters at RWF, Bangalore. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 3,20,34,680/- **Earnest Money Deposit :** 6,40,700/- **Date & Time of Closing of Tender :** 02/06/2026 at 11.00 hours. The detailed tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer

CSIR – INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
4, Raja SC Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032
Advt. No.: R&C/GLP Consultant / 2026
Date of Advertisement: 13/05/2026
Last date of submission of application: 12/06/2026
CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, a premier Institute under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is inviting applications for **engagement of one GLP Consultant from retired CSIR/Central Autonomous Body/Central Government employees** on contractual basis.
For details advertisement, terms & conditions and application form the applicant may visit the **Institute website** www.iicb.res.in → **'Ongoing Recruitment'.**
Controller of Administration

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
E-mail: bswmlee4@gmail.com
No. DGM-2/BSWML/PR/ 54/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026
CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Tender Notification No:DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/03/2026-27, dated: 02.05.2026, invited through kpp portal for Storm water drain from Kannur - Chikkagubbi - Doddagubbi - Rampura Lake - Yelemale Chatty lake and Culverts approach roads is cancelled.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/624/NR/2026-27 Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.
No.: V.T.U./BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No. 19/639 Date : 11-05-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (K.P.P. Portal Only) 2nd Call
The E-Tender is invited induplicate from eligible Tenderers, Registered Contractor, **by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18,** under Standard Tender Document Procedure K/W Format for the **Work of Renovation and other minor works to Guest House building at VTU, "Regional Centre, Kalaburagi Amounting to Rs. 80,50,457/- (Excluding GST) 2nd Call.** Other details log on to **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 11-05-2026.**
Sd/- Registrar.
DIPR/Belagavi/232/Manipal/2026-27 V.T.U., Belagavi,

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date
262713 000867	Procurement of Screens for Paper Machine #2 in TNPL Unit - I.	27.05.2026
262723 000517	Procurement of LATEX 2 - PRE COAT - (SBR BINDER) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	21.05.2026
262723 000528	Procurement of CATIONIC ROSIN for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	21.05.2026
262723 000519	Procurement of LUBRICANT for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	22.05.2026
262723 000520	Procurement of WATER RETENTION AGENT for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	23.05.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1872/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली
अल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना
पत्रांकः 43/मु0अभि0/नि0वि0/2025–26 दिनांकः 11.05.2026
ई-निविदा सूचना शासनादेश सं0– 3890/नौ–5–149सा/2019 नगर विकास अनुभाग–05 उ0प्र0 शासन लखनऊ दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 2019 के अनुपालन में ठेकेदारों से निर्माण कार्यों हेतु निविदायें दू बिड पद्धति (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि में यदि अवकाश होगा तो निविदाएं अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा से सम्बनिधत प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट https://etender.up.nic.in व नगर निगम की वेबसाइट www.nagarnigambareilly.com पर देखी जा सकता है।

उपवन योजना के अन्तर्गत पुनः ई–निविदा आमंत्रित हेतु (क्रमांक सं0–1)	
ई–निविदा डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ की तिथि/समय	12.05.2026 – (03:00 PM)
ई–निविदा अपलोड की प्रारम्भ तिथि/समय	12.05.2026 – (04:00 PM)
ई–निविदा अपलोड की अंतिम तिथि/समय	18.05.2026 – (03:00 PM)
ई–निविदा खोली जाने की तिथि/समय	18.05.2026 – (04:00 PM)
फाईनेशियल ई – निविदा खोली जाने हेतु	After Technical Evaluation

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट www.nagarnigambareilly.com पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।
मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम बरेली।

IS **AI RESHAPING** THE WORLD

OUR AVATARS MAY SOON DO MUCH FOR US

Vikram, 27, is somewhat lonely yet afraid of commitment, having seen too many relationships around him collapse too quickly. Walking down the street, his AI antenna alerts him that someone approaching matches his idea of an ideal companion. He observes her for a few seconds before letting his AI take over. Her AI responds, and the two systems begin conversing – first through signals, then via hyper-realistic avatars that meet in a virtual space. Once satisfied, both AIs give the green signal for the humans to connect. This may sound like science fiction, but we're closer than we think. London-based Synthesia already creates hyper-realistic AI avatars, complete with lip sync, gestures and body language. Unlike humans, these avatars aren't subject to fatigue or mood swings, they can always present the best version of us. Could they soon take over not just dating and relationship evaluation, but also reading and interpreting books, joining team meetings, or even advising corporate boards? The possibilities seem infinite.

Ganesh Natarajan | CHAIRMAN, GTT DATA SOLUTIONS, HONEYWELL AUTOMATION INDIA AND 5F WORLD

TIMES TECHIES
WEBINAR
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 5PM – 6PM
Event page link: https://bit.ly/aitechies21
SCAN THE QR CODE

Do join us for a discussion on
Data quality first: The mindset shift that differentiates AI

TIMES TECHIES WEBINARS
session partner Capgemini

Kamlesh Solanki
DIRECTOR, DATA ENGINEERING, HP

Naveen Kamat
CHIEF DIGITAL & AI OFFICER, LARSEN & TOUBRO

Bejoy John
SENIOR DIRECTOR, ENTERPRISE DATA MANAGEMENT, WESCO

Padmashree Shagrithaya
EXECUTIVE VP AND HEAD, INSIGHTS & DATA - INDIA, CAPGEMINI

Last week saw a lot of discussion around GCCs – at a Nasscom conference, and in sessions organised by Times Techies. There was much talk about how GCCs must look at AI, and what it means for India's talent

Delivery hubs to AI reinvention hubs

Why GCCs must move to shape enterprise outcomes

DEFINING TOMORROW: SOLVING HIDDEN PROBLEMS TODAY

"According to our latest research with 250 GCC leaders across India, 29% are already operating as true catalysts for enterprise-wide transformation and innovation. Scaling AI has laid the foundation – but designing for outcomes is what creates real impact. The leaders who will define the next stage are already solving problems their enterprise hasn't asked them to solve yet.
Paul Jeruchimowitz | SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR & GLOBAL GCC PRACTICE LEAD, ACCENTURE

"The old assembly-line model of work, where ideas move from product to engineering to quality assurance to deployment, will give way to a craft-based model. Roles will blur. People will need adjacent skills. The question will not be whether someone can write perfect syntax, but whether they can think in systems, explain AI decisions and use AI responsibly.
Hari Krishna Verma Nadimpalli | MD, INSPIRE BRANDS INDIA INNOVATION CENTRE

"AI will be the biggest change management challenge enterprises have faced in a long time, because it will fundamentally reshape how work is distributed, who does it, and what skills matter. GCCs are uniquely positioned to lead this transition because they can hire at scale, build infrastructure, and drive experimentation. As AI adoption accelerates, success will increasingly depend not just on IQ or EQ, but on 'AIQ' – the ability to work effectively with AI and adapt to new ways of working.
Lalit Ahuja | FOUNDER & CEO, ANSR

"In complex and regulated environments, global capability centres such as our Deutsche Boerse Group hub in Hyderabad succeed when AI is anchored in strong data ownership, accountable governance, and enterprise trust. That enables innovation that is reliable, auditable, and scalable.
Ludwig Heinzelmann | DIRECTOR & HEAD, DEUTSCHE BOERSE INDIA

SujitJohn@timesofindia.com

We've been saying that global capability centres (GCCs) in India are fast becoming integral to the global enterprise. In the AI era now, their role is changing sharply. The next generation of GCCs will not merely deliver solutions, they will also have to shape enterprise outcomes, redesign work, orchestrate ecosystems, and accelerate AI adoption at scale. That's what we heard in a Times Techies discussion last week in partnership with Accenture.

Lalit Ahuja, founder & CEO of ANSR, one of the leaders in helping GCCs establish and operate, said AI adoption is a lot about context, and so GCCs will need to be even more integrated with business and be the repository for the enterprise context, to remain relevant in the AI age.

The shift, he said, is already visible. Newer GCCs are being designed as AI-first centres from the start. About 15-20% of existing GCCs, Ahuja said, are experimenting with AI across functions, while many others are in wait-and-watch mode. The difference, he said, is that new GCCs are being built with the right form, structure, job families and operating models for AI, while older ones must retrofit AI into legacy ways of working.

Paul Jeruchimowitz, senior MD at Accenture and leader of its GCC practice, said a recent Accenture survey of 250 GCC leaders found that 29% qualified as "catalysts of enterprise reinvention". They are co-authoring the AI strategy. "They are coming to the business, to headquarters, with an agenda, not sitting back and waiting to receive the agenda," Jeruchimowitz said.

He said leading GCCs have two other traits. They influence how work gets done across the business, and they invest heavily in business and AI skills. In many cases, GCCs may be ahead of headquarters in AI fluency, allowing new ways of working developed in India to be ported back to the global enterprise.

Foundational Changes

For GCCs to scale AI, however, the foundations must change. Hari Krishna Verma Nadimpalli, MD of Inspire Brands' India Innovation Centre, said the problem is not that AI is not smart enough. The problem is whether the enterprise around it is ready.

TIMES TECHIES TALKS
Session Partner
accenture

Inspire Brands, which owns Baskin-Robbins, Buffalo Wild Wings, Dunkin' and other restaurant brands, is using data and AI to better understand customers, predict demand and estimate customer lifetime value. But Nadimpalli said the foundational issue is data quality, context and trust. The current model of AI, he noted, works best when it has context. But if you present context in the form of documents and siloed data pipelines, you may not get great results. Enterprises, he said, have to think about data as an asset, as opposed to documents as an asset, and think about how to build more robust data pipelines.

Governance also has to change. Traditional governance is built around control and prevention. AI, Nadimpalli said, requires instrumentation to catch errors by itself, feedback loops to generate better results, and surfacing of errors early.

Ludwig Heinzelmann, India head of Deutsche Boerse, said regulated industries face an additional challenge. Deutsche Boerse builds and operates capital market infrastructure, where systems must be auditable and trusted. In big organisations, he said, there is never a lack of data, "but there is a lack of organised and properly governed data." Trust in AI output, he said, begins with trust in input data.

To scale AI, Heinzelmann said, Deutsche Boerse has created a chief digital transformation role whose remit runs across the organisation to drive consistency. He said India is central to that journey. The company's Hyderabad centre, launched last August, is positioned as a "talent and innovation location at scale", fully integrated into the global organisation.

A major new role for GCCs will also be ecosystem orchestration – because when change is so rapid, not everything can be built internally; some solutions would have to be bought, some would have to be orchestrated through partners. Jeruchimowitz said GCCs have a unique advantage because they bring together technology, business functions and talent in one location, with access to startups, academia, platform companies and service providers.

Ahuja said GCCs are increasingly "bringing the power of the ecosystem together."

How a global retailer and banker are using AI

SujitJohn@timesofindia.com

At the Nasscom GCC Summit last week in Mumbai, we had a discussion with two leading GCC heads – Ankur Mittal, CTO and MD of Lowe's India, and Praveen Kumar, CEO of Barclays Global Services India – on how much of a foundational shift AI is, and the impact the technology has had. Both said the shift is fundamental, and is forcing companies to rethink customer experience, employee productivity, business processes, and the nature of talent.

"There are going to be some places where we have to reimagine the business, foundational changes. There are going to be some places where we overlay AI on top of what we are doing today," Mittal said.

Lowe's, the 105-year-old, $86-billion US home improvement retailer, is looking at AI through three lenses: how customers shop, how employees work, and how store associates sell. The third is particularly important because Lowe's operates about 1,750 stores and has 300,000 store associates helping customers with specialised home improvement needs.

A customer may ask which generator is needed for a home, what HVAC system suits a 2,400 sqft house, or how to fix a leaky faucet. No associate can know every detail across a 120,000 sqft store with 40,000 SKUs. Lowe's response has been MyLow Companion, an AI assistant for store associates. The app pulls together product information, store inventory, nearby store availability and guidance on customer questions. Lowe's has also created a version for customers on lowes.com. "The app can answer questions like: how do I fix my patio, or which battery do I need for this tool," Mittal said.

The impact is already visible. Lowe's gets nearly a million questions a month on these AI apps. Customers who interact with MyLow on lowes.com convert at twice the rate of those who do not use the AI assistant. When store associates use the app to help customers, Lowe's has seen a 200-basis-point improvement in likelihood-to-recommend scores and associate helpfulness.

At Barclays, Praveen Kumar said, AI is foundational because banking is fundamentally about allocating capital and managing risk. The quality and speed of decisions matter deeply.

"The more data-centric and faster those decisions can be, that makes a material difference to our outcomes," he said.

Barclays' first wave of AI adoption focused on individual productivity. These included call summarisation, content summarisation, credit underwriting support and other tools that help employees make faster decisions. The bank has also developed customer-facing use cases. Its FX bot can cut the time taken for foreign exchange quotes by 75%. Conversational AI in customer service can deliver decisions 95-99% faster.

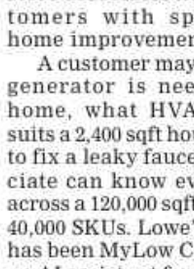
But Kumar said the next phase will be more ambitious. Barclays is now looking at end-to-end process reinvention using AI and agentic AI. This includes know-your-customer processes, customer due diligence, financial client processes, and fraud technology. Referring to this last issue, he said that when external threat actors are becoming more and more sophisticated using technology, you have to counter them in real-time using technology as well.

Both leaders said the bigger opportunity lies in new business possibilities. "We have to look at: can I create something new, something very different, big bets. It balances out cost and top line," he said.

"With technology changing so fast, customer expectations changing so fast, there are only certain things you can control. So it's all about curiosity, learnability, about experiencing different things. Every single day, if you sleep without learning a new thing, you are probably falling behind.
Ankur Mittal | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER & MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LOWE'S INDIA

"Talent must double down on domain knowledge. In a recent hackathon, we found students spent most of their time understanding the problem and far less on coding. Ten years ago, it used to be the other way round. The value today is really on understanding the business very well. The tech part is relatively easy.
Praveen Kumar | CEO, BARCLAYS GLOBAL SERVICES INDIA

"India will have a huge advantage in the times to come given our demographics and education and the last 25 years of history. GCC as a concept is less than 25 years in India, but it's the oldest in the world. And the maturity of the GCC ecosystem has come in just the last 12-14 years. So the mindset of the GCC ecosystem is like a startup. However big we may be, the mindset is of agility, flexibility, rapid response, being able to be a part of every solution, and running towards the fire wherever required. So, scale and speed are the true advantages of India.
Deepak Mangla | CEO, CORPORATE CENTRES IN INDIA AND PHILIPPINES, JPMORGANCHASE (THE BANK'S GCC IN INDIA IS REGARDED THE BIGGEST, WITH OVER 60,000 EMPLOYEES)



"We are still a young country. We are still a country where people have a lot of aspiration and ambition. You won't find the same level of hunger that I see here in many other countries. That energy is what makes India's GCCs so powerful today, why I have been able to increase headcount here so much. At the AI Impact Summit, I was struck by the fact that there was not one negative question from participants. Nobody was asking, 'Will AI take my job?' The main question was: 'What can it do for us?' That optimism comes because India has seen technology materially improve lives at scale. We see technology as an enabler, not as something that will push us down ... India's GCCs are therefore uniquely positioned to architect the future. I believe the GCCs today are the ones who are architecting the entire AI solution. They understand the legacy stack, but they also understand the future AI stack. So they know how best not to have to rip and replace everything and yet get the best out of the whole stack. They can bridge the transition for global enterprises.
Arundhati Bhattacharya | PRESIDENT & CEO, SALESFORCE, SOUTH ASIA (SALESFORCE HAS 17,000 PEOPLE IN INDIA, OF WHICH ABOUT 15,000 ARE TECHNOLOGISTS, AND IT'S THE ONLY COUNTRY UNIT THAT REPORTS INTO THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERING)

CAREER LADDER
FOR WOMEN

What shaped me was a series of quiet disruptions

Ekta Narain

In Class 9, when girls were expected to choose needlework and boys chose commerce, I picked commerce. It sounds trivial now, but it taught me my first lesson in leadership: when the script doesn't fit your purpose, write a new one.

Early in my career, I built a CBSE-affiliated school from the ground up in a small hill town raising capital, hiring, getting approvals, convincing parents to trust a new idea. Later, I moved into large corporations, where I learned to shift from an owner-mindset to influence-without-authority aligning diverse teams, respecting process, and making inclusion a daily practice. When language became a barrier, I learned a new one to belong to. When speed met structure, I leaned on purpose and persuasion.

Sport taught me grit; work taught me grace. A favourite line I carry from school days is: "Winners don't quit, and quitters don't win." I've failed, recalibrated, and moved again, always asking, "What did this teach me?" I've also learned to keep joy non-negotiable. I tell every candidate: skills can be taught, not attitude, so, it matters.

At Recykal, technology is at the core where AI drives business guided by human intelligence. While data brings traceability and trust; it is the people who bring empathy and add momentum. The circular economy isn't just about closing material loops, it is about the human commitment to make a real impact. That's not a tech output; it is what you earn when you invest in innovation and people, every single day.

To women navigating their own ladders: don't chase perfect, chase progress. Build an inner circle that tells you the truth and roots for you anyway. Be a team player because together you can solve the most complicated problems with ease. Success is not measured just by titles, but by the teams you've grown, the courage you've modelled, and the doors you've opened for others.

I live a few years ahead in my mind visualising what a better Wednesday looks like and then I work backwards. That future focus keeps me grounded in the present. Purpose sets direction, people create momentum, and perseverance delivers compounding returns. The rest is just noise.

Ekta Narain is co-founder & chief business officer of Recykal

CTRL+F(IND)

DATA PIPELINE

A data pipeline is a system that moves data from one place to another and prepares it for use. It collects information from sources such as apps, websites, sensors or databases, then cleans, organises and transforms it into a useful format. The processed data is finally delivered to tools used for analysis, reporting or artificial intelligence systems. Businesses use data pipelines to make sure information flows smoothly and automatically, rather than relying on people to move files manually. For example, an online retailer may use a data pipeline to combine sales, inventory and customer data in real time to track demand and improve decisions.

THINK OF YOUR CAREERS AS MANY SHORT LOOPS

Akhil George & Sujit John | TNN

The career, as most people have understood it, is dead. Not the working life – that endures – but the old architecture of it: the single long arc, the carefully chosen specialism, the thirty-year ascent through a recognised hierarchy. Sanjay Menon, executive VP and MD of Publicis Sapient India, wants professionals – particularly young ones – to bury that model and stop mourning it.

"In the past, people have thought about careers as one long loop that lasts 25 or 30 years," he says. "You go through a learning curve, a maturing curve, and then a monetisation curve. People have to think about careers right now as many short loops." It sounds unsettling. Menon insists it is liberating – if you arrive at it with the right disposition.

That disposition, he argues, begins with curiosity and is sustained by what he calls a gamer's mindset. The analogy arrived to him unexpectedly, watching his son navigate the worlds of competitive gaming. "Gamers thrive on the fact that they don't know enough and they're being challenged by something that is likely to beat them more often than they will win," he says. "It's the thrill of wanting to be challenged and the joy of overcoming it." When that spirit is brought to professional life, the paralysis of uncertainty dissolves. You stop waiting to feel ready and start asking, instead, where the opportunity lies.

AI Career Edge

The contrast Menon draws is between dieting and wellness. Dieting is a finite journey – point A to point B – whereas wellness is a continuously evolving set of behaviours oriented towards health. A career, he believes, should follow the second model. How do you think about a career as a set of moves rather than one big move? The answer, according to Menon, lies in realising that expertise is no longer a destination but a series of temporary advantages to be leveraged and then superseded.

Understand Business Value

For those already embedded in a domain – software development, say, or finance – the path forward is not sideways but upstream. Menon uses the example of a developer writing code for an automotive client. "The lowest common denominator is: I'm writing code," he says. "The next thing is: what am I writing this code for? Why is it valuable for the business?" As AI absorbs the purely mechanical elements of coding, the professional who has relentlessly pushed their understanding towards business context finds themselves already positioned at the next level. "You are building perspective by constantly pushing upstream. Most people look at the work they do as a task; they don't spend enough time linking that into where it generates business value."

Careers today are no longer one long climb built on a single skill. They are many short loops driven by curiosity, adaptability and the ability to create value repeatedly. If you compete with AI, you will lose. But if you use AI as a booster rocket, keep pushing upstream, and stay obsessed with solving business problems, you will always remain relevant.
Sanjay Menon | EVP & MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLICIS SAPIENT INDIA

The warning signs of professional obsolescence, Menon suggests, are subtler than redundancy notices. They arrive when colleagues begin treating you as a point solution – the person summoned for one specific, repeatable task. "To me, that's a red flag," he says plainly. "No matter how good we are, we're never going to be faster or more tireless than a machine. If you compete with AI, you will lose; if you use AI as a booster rocket, you will get where you want to go." The shift he urges is from job security – which he regards as something of an illusion even historically – to what he terms relevance security. "People who stayed in their jobs were always people who were able to create value. Today, you have to create different kinds of value in very short time frames."

He is unsparing about the suggestion that workers might find refuge by identifying tasks AI cannot yet perform. "A gap that exists today may not exist tomorrow," he says. The proper response is not to occupy a gap defensively, but to become fluent at identifying gaps – and at scanning laterally for where a skill proved in one sector might become newly valuable in another.

The institutional implications are considerable. Menon is blunt about the environment in which curiosity can flourish, advising younger professionals to seek out flat organisations where proximity to business impact is immediate. "If you're writing code for a shopping cart, you should understand how a single percentage of channel conversion means millions in revenue." Managers who suppress curiosity – often, he notes, because their own relevance feels threatened – are not merely bad leaders; they are, in the current climate, genuinely dangerous to the people in their care. "Don't compromise on what you can create," he advises. "Question the environment you're in."

GALLERY

LIMAYE QUALIFIES FOR ASIAN GAMES

Indian equestrian rider Ashish Limaye qualified for the Asian Games in the CCI 3S category with a fine showing at an equestrian event held in Sopot, Poland, on Sunday. Riding Willy Be Dun, the rider from the Embassy International Riding School finished fourth in the event to meet the qualifying mark.

Sachin set for DL debut: Sachin Yadav is all set to make his debut in the Diamond League at the Rome leg of the elite athletics series on June 4, while two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra is absent from the competition's entry list. Neeraj, who is currently in Turkiye for training and rehabilitation, has yet to begin his 2026 season.

Murray to join Draper's coaching team: Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will join fellow Briton Jack Draper's team during the grasscourt season, Draper announced on Tuesday as he parted ways with Murray's former coach Jamie Delgado after six months. Murray, who retired in 2024, previously had a coaching partnership with Novak Djokovic that ended in May 2025.

Free TT coaching camp: The Bengaluru Urban District Table Tennis Association (BUDTTA) will conduct a free coaching camp for beginners and intermediate players from May 18-30 at the KTTA Hall in the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The camp will be held for players between 6-19 years between 9.30 and 11.30 am. The last date for registration is May 15. Contact: TS Ram Kumar (9449466913) / D Loknath (9886353115).

Blue Diamond win: Blue Diamond FC blanked Pioneer FC Bangalore 8-0 in the KSFA 'C' Division football league championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Manimaran, Babu and Selva scored a brace each.
Results: Blue Diamond FC 8 (Manimaran 8, 22, Babu 13, 24, Selva 35, 50, Prashanth 52, Prem 54) bt Pioneer FC Bangalore 0; Ronaldo FC Bangalore 1 (MangLen Lal Kipgen 2) bt Blue Moon FC 0; Play 365 6 (Nihal K 10, Shushruth M 20, 30, Muhammed Shan 31, Yesh Raj 35, Karthik Rahul 60) bt Yelahanka FC 0; Annsh Sports Club 4 (Kavhiuzai 29, Arun Kumar K 37, 45, 58) bt Victoria FC Bangalore 2 (Narasimha L 30+1, 48); DB United 0 drew with RVFC 0; Agniputhra FA 2 (Sai Sathya 16, Salih 29) bt Mahesh Raj United FC 1 (Vishal 5).

Johney no more: Former Karnataka state junior football player, CP Johney, passed away in Bengaluru on Monday. The 72-year-old Johney, who primarily played on the left wing, also represented BEL in the past.

Former basketball player Browne dies: Former basketball player and coach Derick Browne, 85, passed away on Saturday due to illness. He represented Karnataka and the Services teams in the National Championships and also coached the state women's team. Browne also represented Devanga Union Basketball Club & MEG Basketball.

Manish breaks drought

Tyagi, Mukund Advance; Karan Makes Early Exit

Ashim.Sunam@timesofindia.com

Chethan Shivakumar

WINNING START: Kriish Tyagi will meet Japan's Yuta Kawahashi on Wednesday

Bengaluru: India's Manish Sureshkumar took a sigh of relief in the SM Krishna tennis stadium on Tuesday. The 26-year-old's 6-4, 7-6 (7) win over qualifier Ronit Karki of US in the Karnataka Open marked his first main draw victory in an ATP Challenger event since Nov 2019, when he defeated Japan's Rio Noguchi in Pune. Court 1 continued to be lucky for the host nation, with Kriish Tyagi and Mukund Sasikumar emerging victorious. However, on the adjacent court, Karan Singh — India's highest-ranked player in the competition at No. 413 — suffered an early exit.

Sureshkumar, ranked 829 in the ATP rankings, delivered a strong serving performance in the opening set against the 2025 Wimbledon boys' singles runner-up. The Chennai player fired 10 aces during the one-hour, 45-minute contest and won 89 percent of his first-serve points in the set. Karki's multiple unforced errors at crucial moments also hurt his chances.

It was competitive in the second set, which was decided in a tiebreak, where the Indian raced to a 5-1 lead. Karki fought back and threatened to push the match into a deciding set but Sureshkumar held his nerve to seal the victory.

"It feels good to win a match in the main draw of a Challenger after a long time. I am feeling confident now. Hopefully, I can keep the momentum going. I need to continue with my good serves — that is going to be key," Sureshkumar said.

Bengaluru's 19-year-old Tyagi, a qualifier, took one hour and 23 minutes to defeat Japanese qualifier Taiyo Yamanaka 6-2, 7-5 while Mukund Sasikumar (524) outplayed Malaysia's Mitsuki Wei Leong 6-3, 7-6.

However, India No. 3 and sixth seed Karan Singh lost 6-7 (6), 6-3 in the first round to Japan's Kokoro Isomura. His inconsistency, unforced errors at the net, and inability to convert crucial points proved costly. The disappointment for India did not stop there with Prajwal Dev, Digvijaypratap Singh and Aditya Vishal Balsekar knocked out of the competition. **Select results:** 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Digvijaypratap Singh (Ind) 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5); Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) bt Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) 6-3, 7-6 (1); 2-Hamish Stewart (GBR) bt Omar Jasika (Aus) 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3; Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) bt 6-Karan Singh (Ind) 7-6 (6), 6-3; Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) bt Q-Ronit Karki (USA) 6-4, 7-6 (7); Q-Alastair Gray (GBR) bt 3-Petr Bar Biryukov 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (3); Joshua Charlton (Aus) bt D Prajwal Dev (Ind) 6-1, 6-4; WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) bt Q-Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-2, 7-5; 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt Q-Ryotaro Taguchi (Jpn) 6-1, 6-4; Amit Vales (Isr) bt Q-Aditya Vishal Balsekar (Ind) 6-2, 6-2.

WILDCARD FOR WAWRINKA, MONFILS

Stan Wawrinka and fellow retiring player Gael Monfils were given wild cards for the French Open on Monday. The 41-year-old Wawrinka won Roland Garros in 2015 and is now ranked No. 125. Both plan to retire at the end of the year and both will be honored after their final matches in Paris. AFP

SINNER MARCHES INTO QUARTERS WITH EASE

World number one Jannik Sinner extended his Masters 1000 winning streak to 31 matches, equalling Novak Djokovic's all-time record, with a 6-2 6-3 victory over unseeded compatriot Andrea Pellegrino in the round of 16 of the Italian Open on Tuesday. Sinner struck 13 winners in a contest that lasted one hour and 29 minutes.

Teenager Tanishi leads record-breaking spree

Times News Network

Pix: Chethan Shivakumar

DOUBLE DELIGHT: Tanishi Gupta en route to winning gold

Bengaluru: Swimmers continued to light up the pool at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre on Tuesday, as seven meet records tumbled on Day 2 of the State Senior Swimming Championship here. Among the standout performers was Tanishi Gupta of Dolphin Aquatics Centre, who produced a dominant display in the women's 100m butterfly. The 16-year-old clocked 1:00.49 to erase the previous meet record of 1:03.45 set by her clubmate Nina Venkatesh three years ago. Nina settled for silver, while Swimlife's Naisha Shetty claimed bronze.

STATE SWIMMING

Tanishi then completed another impressive victory over Nina in the women's 100m backstroke. She touched the pad in 1:05.16, breaking the earlier meet mark of 1:05.81 set by Ridhima Veerendrakumar at the 2022 edition of the event.

Also making a mark on the day were Shoan Ganguly (400m IM), Naisha (200m backstroke), Aneesh Gowda (200m freestyle), S Lakshya (100m breaststroke) and Thanya S (400m IM).

Freestyle: 1. Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dol; 4:32.67), 2. Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS) 4:37.35, 3. Adithi Relekar (BAC; 4:39.68); **100M Butterfly:** 1. Tanishi Gupta (Dol; 1:00.49 NMR), 2. Nina Venkatesh (Dol; 1:04.72), 3. Naisha Shetty (SwimLife; 1:04.88); **100M Backstroke:** 1. Tanishi Gupta (Dol; 1:05.16 NMR), 2. Nina Venkatesh (Dol; 1:06.51), 3. Priyanshi Misra (BAC; 1:06.95); **100M Breaststroke:** 1 S Lakshya (BAC; 1:13.67 NMR), 2. Lineysha AK (Dol; 1:15.53), 3. Manavi Varma (Dol; 1:16.42); **400M IM:** 1. Thanya S (JIRS; 5:08.65 NMR), 2. S Lakshya (BAC; 5:21.20), 3. Aditi N Mulay (BAC; 5:23.82). **Men: 400M IM:** 1. Shoan Ganguly (BAC; 4:31.99 NMR), 2. Shivank Vishwanath (BAC; 4:40.06), 3. Pavan Dhananjaya (BAC; 4:40.59); **1500M Freestyle:** 1. Dharshan S (BAC; 16:15.79), 2. Pavan Dhananjaya (BAC; 16:22.29), 3. Dhakshan S (BAC; 16:23.54); **4x100M Medley:** 1. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'A' (Raghav Swachandam, Surya Jhoyappa, Shrivardhan Rajaram Patil, Shivank Vishwanath; 4:00.72), 2. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'B' 4:01.76, 3. Dolphin Aquatics 'A' (4:08.34); **100 M Butterfly:** 1. Chinthan Shetty (LAS; 56.38), 2. Shrivardhan Pati (BAC; 57.51); 3. Navaneeth Gowda (Dol; 57.76); **200M Freestyle**: 1 Aneesh Gowda (BAC; 1:51.87NMR), 2. Dharshan S (BAC; 1:51.92 NMR), 3. Dhakshan S (BAC;1:54.28); **Mixed 4x100M medley:** 1 Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre 'A' 4:09.49 (Naisha, Surya Jhoyappa, Dharshan S, Shirin), 2. Dolphin Aquatics 'A' 4:15.11, 3. Dolphin Aquatics 'B' 4:16.21.

Bowlers, Akarsh power Vivekanagar

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Bowlers from Vivekanagar Cricketers were on a song against Merchants Cricket Club as they propelled their team to a 214-run victory in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently. Opting to bat, Vivekanagar Cricketers put up a competitive 278/3 in 42 overs. Viveknagar were given a good start by the opening pair of Bhavith Reddy (51) and centurion Akarsh Appinakatte (111; 105b). The duo put together run-a- ball 109. Akarsh's innings was studded with eight boundaries.

Merchant's slide began off the third delivery of their innings when Chahel Avanti offered a return catch to Shishir. Thereafter, the batters made a beeline to the pavilion with just two among them registering double-digit scores. Preetham Gowda led the bowling attack with figures of 3 for 18, while Dushyanth Gowda (2/7) and Shashank Prabhakar (2/2) accounted for two wickets apiece.

Brief scores: Vivekanagar Cricketers: 278/3 in 42 overs (Bhavith Reddy 51, Akarsh Appinakatte 111 (105b; 8x4), Sachit Galatagi 39, Likhith Jadhav 34 n.o, Jagan TP 30 n.o) **bt Merchants CC (1): 64 all out in 29.1 overs** (Preetham Gowda 3-18, Dushyanth Gowda 2-7, Shashank Prabhakar 2-2).
Modern CC: 205 all out in 41.2 overs (Nethieek Dave 41, Dhyey Shastri 58; Dikshan Bhandarkar 2-34, Rajdeep Banerjee 3-31, Dheekshith Bhaskar 2-38) **lost to Johnson CC: 208/9 in 41.3 overs** (Divyam Kumawat 48; Krishna Hebbar 3-49, Haadi Suryani 3-35, Suriyha M 2-44).
Bangalore Star CA: 224 all out in 47.2 overs (Karmanye Puri 33, Suhas M 41, V Vedhanth 37, Sharath Kumar 29; Aadit Patel 3-37, Neeraj Gowda 3-51, Agastya DS 2-11) **lost to Bharath CC: 227/8 in 45.2 overs** (Aniketh Kundapur 35, Gaurav Jeevan 85 n.o; Hridhaanreet Wazir 3-53, Ajay Kumara 2-37).
South End SC: 85 all out in 27.1 overs (Gollapalli Vishnu 2-11, Pranav Nayak 2-22, Aarav Singh 2-19, Swayam Shabadi 3-15) **lost to Vultures CC: 89 for no loss in 14.1 overs** (Anirudh Bangera 52 n.o, Aaryan Nagesh 28 n.o).
Minerva CC: 187 all out in 39 overs (Soumyarup Mukherjee 36, Shreyansu Mishra 29, Krishang Gupta 28 n.o; Shwetansh RK 3-27, Tanish Bennuri 4-28) **lost to Spartons SC: 188/2 in 31.1 overs** (Vastvik Sharma 80 n.o, Hrithik Polin 55; Soumyarup Mukherjee 2-73).
Jawahar SC (2): 38 all out in 26.5 overs (Atharv Karadi 3-11, Ujwal Krishna 4-11) **lost to RVCE Gymkhana: 39/1 in 2.5 overs.**

Shriyanshi clinches Mexican International Challenge title

Times News Network

BADMINTON

Shriyanshi Valishetty won the Mexican International Challenge title in Aguascalientes on Sunday. The 19-year-old, who won the Al Ain Masters last year, rallied after losing the first game to beat Brazil's Juliana Viana 12-21, 21-16, 21-18 in the final.

The top-seeded Indian struggled in the first game as Juliana controlled the rallies and dictated the pace of the game. After failing to find the rhythm in the first game, Shriyanshi surged ahead to a 11-4 lead in the second game and never looked back . It was a see-saw battle in the third. Trailing 16-19, Juliana won the next two points but Shriyanshi did not panic and clinched the last two big points.

SATWIK-CHIRAG IN PRE-QUARTERFINALS

Top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty survived a mid-match slump to beat Indonesia's Muh Putra Erwiansyah and Bagas Maulana 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 in the first round of the Thailand Open Super-500 tournament in Bangkok.

They will face Bryan Jeremy Goonting and Muhammad Haikal of Malaysia in the second round on Thursday. Seventh seeds Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun lost to unseeded Taipei pair of Chen Zhi Ray and Lin Yu Chieh 18-21, 20-22.

Indian challenge ended in women's doubles after Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda lost to Lin Chih-Chun and Yang Chu Yun of Chinese Taipei 9-21, 11-21.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com
No:BMCRC/SUP/TEND/Hall/01/2026-27 Date:07.05.2026.
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Furnitures to Lecturer and Examination Hall, BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before 08.06.2026up to 5.00 PM. The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.378.55 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/131

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC			
1.	Operation and Maintenance of existing Wet Waste Windrow Composting Plant at Dumping Ground, Dadumajra, Chandigarh for 24 Month (Extendable further by 12 Months)- (Re-invite). **Approximate Amount : Rs. 4,17,61,768/- Earnest Money : Rs. 8,35,240/- Time Period : 24 Months Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-**	13.05.2026 at 9:00 A.M To 20.05.2026 at 11:00 A.M	20.05.2026 at 11:30 A.M
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No.3			
2.	Dismantling and reconstruction of flooring of back services lanes in Sector 22 A, B, C & D, Chandigarh. Capital Head : Improvement of Roads/Parking Places & Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs.117.29 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs.2,34,580/- Time Limit : 06 Months	12.05.2026 To 27.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	27.05.2026 at 15.00 PM

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com and Roads Division No.3, M.C. Chandigarh. Room No.311 Ph. 0172-5021482 xenroad3.mcc@chd.nic.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD
DATE CORRIGENDUM-I
This is in reference to the Online Expression of Interest (EOI) (Global Tender Enquiry) for **"Procurement of Civil & Hydro mechanical Works of Sai Kothi-II (18 MW) Hydroelectric Project"- Tissa, Chamba (HP)"** with support from KfW Development Bank, Germany with Tender No. CE(PCA)/SK-II/ 2026-02 published on dated 11.04.2026 on www.hptenders.gov.in.
The last date of submission of tender and opening of techno-commercial bid is hereby extended as under:-
Last date of submission of Tender: 28.05.2026 (15.00 hrs, IST)
Date of opening of Bid: 29.05.2026 (13.00 hrs, IST)
For detailed tender notice, please visit HPSEB Ltd.'s website i.e. www.hpseb.in or www.hptenders.gov.in
-sd-
Chief Engineer (PCA), Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004, Tel.- 0177-2811263
Advt.No.:-0215/12/05/2026

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD
DATE CORRIGENDUM-I
This is in reference to the Online Expression of Interest (EOI) (Global Tender Enquiry) for **"Procurement of Civil & Hydro mechanical Works of Sai Kothi-I (15 MW) Hydroelectric Project"- Tissa, Chamba (HP)"** with support from KfW Development Bank, Germany with Tender No. CE(PCA)/SK-I/ 2026-01 published on dated 11.04.2026 on www.hptenders.gov.in.
The last date of submission of tender and opening of techno-commercial bid is hereby extended as under:-
Last date of submission of Tender: 28.05.2026 (15.00 hrs., IST)
Date of opening of Bid: 29.05.2026 (13.00 hrs, IST)
For detailed tender notice, please visit HPSEB Ltd.'s website i.e. www.hpseb.in or www.hptenders.gov.in
Chief Engineer (PCA), Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004, Tel.- 0177-2811263
Advt.No.:-0214/12/05/2026

32001/204/2627
Deptt. of Water Resources
Government of Odisha
"e" Procurement Notice No. ACEDC-CTC- 05/2026 -27
1. Name of the Works : Total **01 (One) no**. Drainage work.
2. Estimated cost : **Rs. 846.78 lakh**
3. Period of Completion : **18 (Eighteen)** months
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal : From **11.30 hours of Dt. 02.05.2026 to 18.00 hours of Dt. 18.05.2026**
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: **18.00 hours of Dt. 18.05.2026**
6. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack- 753003. e-mail id :- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government https://tendersodisha.gov.in. All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.
Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Drainage Circle, Cuttack
OIPR-32001/32174/1/26-27/0002

34001/188/2627
E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in Tel/Fax : 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc. (R&B) 3/2026-27.
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B)Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 02 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Building works
4. Class of contractor : **'B', 'A' & Special Class**
5. Tender paper cost : Rs. 10000/- (**online**)
6. Available of bid document in the web site. : **From 15.05.2026 to 17.30 Hours of 29.05.2026**
7. Date of opening of bid : **Dt.30.05.2026 at 11.00 Hours.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Civil)
Cuttack (R&B) Circle
OIPR-34001/34012/1/26-27/0009

Government of India, Ministry of Railways
RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARDS (RRBs)
CENTRALISED EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (CEN) NO.01/2026
Recruitment of Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)
(Indicative Notice)
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the post of Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP) Level-2 given in the table below. The last date for submission of Application is 14/06/2026. Applications complete in all respect must be submitted THROUGH ONLINE MODE ONLY **(https://www.rrbapply.gov.in).**
Opening date of Application : 15.05.2026
Closing date for submission of Application. : 14.06.2026 (23:59 hrs.)

Name of the post	Pay level as per 7th CPC	Initial Pay(Rs.)	Post-wise Education Qualification & Medical standard	Age (as on 01.07.2026)	Total vacancies (All Railways)
Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)	2	19,900/-	As per detailed CEN	18-30 years	11127

1. Candidates are advised to verify their primary details using Aadhar, during filling of online application, in order to avoid inconvenience and delays due to special detailed scrutiny at every stage of recruitment process for Non-Aadhar verified applications.
2. In order to achieve successful verification using Aadhar, Name and Date of Birth in Aadhar shall be updated to match 100% with the Full Name and Date of Birth available in 10th class pass certificate. Similarly, Aadhar needs to be updated with latest photo and latest biometrics (Fingerprint & Iris) before filling the online application.
3. This notification is purely indicative in nature issued solely for the purpose of keeping prospective candidates informed about the forthcoming CEN and to be in readiness with necessary certificates and documents required for applying. It is also clarified that all terms, conditions, eligibility criteria, procedures and other requirements governing the recruitment shall be strictly as per detailed CEN No.01/2026(along with any corrigendum, which may be issued from time to time) that will be published exclusively on the official websites of the RRBs listed below.

Websites of RRBs Participating in CEN No. 01/2026

Ahmedabad https://rrbahmedabad.gov.in/	Chennai https://rrbchennai.gov.in/	Muzaffarpur https://rrbmuzaffarpur.gov.in/
Ajmer https://rrbajmer.gov.in/	Gorakhpur https://www.rrbgkp.gov.in/	Patna https://www.rrbpatna.gov.in/
Bengaluru http://www.rrbbnc.gov.in/	Guwahati https://www.rrbguwahati.gov.in/	Prayagraj https://rrbpryj.gov.in/
Bhopal https://rrbbhopal.gov.in/	Jammu-Srinagar https://www.rrbjammu.nic.in/	Ranchi https://www.rrbranchi.gov.in/
Bhubaneswar https://www.rrbbbs.gov.in/	Kolkata https://www.rrbkolkata.gov.in/	Secunderabad https://rrbsecunderabad.gov.in/
Bilaspur http://rrbbilaspur.gov.in/	Malda https://rrbmalda.gov.in/	Siliguri https://www.rrbsiliguri.gov.in/
Chandigarh https://www.rrbcdg.gov.in/	Mumbai https://www.rrbmumbai.gov.in/	Thiruvananthapuram https://www.rrbthiruvananthapuram.gov.in/

No. RRB/J-S/Advt./CEN-01/2026/02
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25001/117/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
email- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2112 Date: 08/05/2026
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC e_Procurement Notice
1. Name of the work : Construction of Road Works - 15 Nos.
2. Class of contractor : "B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.299.58 Lakhs to Rs.648.30 Lakhs (Approximately).
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD -Online-07/2026-27	15.05.2026 At 11.00 A.M.	08.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.06.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0005

25001/118/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
email- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2091 Date: 08/05/2026
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC e_Procurement Notice
1. Name of the work : Construction of Road Works 14 Nos.
2. Class of contractor : "B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.272.24 Lakhs to Rs.650.29 Lakhs (Approximately).
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD -Online-06/2026-27	15.05.2026 At 11.00 A.M.	08.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.06.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0006

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

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Pacers take Titans to the top

Rabada & Holder Star As SRH Are Bowled Out For 86 Chasing 169

Sabu.Cherian@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Titans bowling attack has been quite brilliant in this IPL season and it rose to the occasion once again at the Narendra Modi Stadium to take the team to the top of the IPL points tally and within touching distance of a playoffs berth.

The sluggish black soil pitch might have had something in it for the bowlers, but it was a special show from the likes of Mohammad Siraj, Kagiso Rabada, Jason Holder and Prasidh Krishna as they decimated the powerful Sunrisers Hyderabad batting lineup. The Titans won by 82 runs defending only 168.

Siraj (1/11) started the SRH collapse when he had Travis Head caught at third-man in his first over off an outside edge. Rabada (3/28) then ran through the rest of the top-order, getting Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Smaran Ravichandran within the Powerplay to make it a no-contest.

The only thorn could have been Heinrich Klaasen, but once he was dismissed by Holder with the score reading 56-6, the game was done.

While the match was won by the pacers, the Titans batters played their part in posting a competitive 168/5. With the ball holding slightly and batters finding it hard to hit through the line, the hosts rode on half-centuries from opener B Sai Sudharsan (61 off 44 balls; 5x4, 2x6) and Washington Sundar (50 off 33 balls; 7x4, 1x6).

Invited to bat, GT captain Shubman Gill endured a rare failure. He was caught at mid-on by Heinrich Klaasen off Praful Hinge, who replaced left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey. No. 3 batter Jos Buttler (7) was also tied down by accurate bowling from Cummins, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Hinge.

Forced to abandon his trademark down-the-ground shots, Buttler tried to manufacture scoring options behind the wicket. One such attempt brought about his downfall. His attempted scoop off Hinge produced a faint edge to Ishan Kishan, who successfully reviewed a wide call to have Buttler caught behind.

The arrival of Nishant Sindhu (22 off 14 balls; 3x4, 1x6) gave GT some momentum as he struck a four and a six off Reddy in the first over after the Powerplay, forcing Cummins to bring himself on and Sindhu, looking to up the tempo, drove him straight to Klaasen at long-off as GT laboured to 68/3 at the halfway mark.

Sundar and Sudharsan also found the going tough as the SRH bowlers rarely wavered from their line and length. The pair kept the scoreboard moving with singles, twos and the occasional boundary, adding 60 off 41 balls to give GT's innings some shape.

Yogesh Chawda

4 **Kagiso Rabada** (3rd from right) has become the fourth pacer to take 20+ wickets 4 times in an IPL season — 30 in 2020, 25 in 2019, 23 in 2022 & 21 in 2026. The other three are Lasith Malinga, Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

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SCOREBOARD

GT: S Sudharsan c Hinge b Sakib 61, S Gill c Klaasen b Hinge 5, J Buttler c Kishan b Hinge 7, N Sindhu c Klaasen b Cummins 22, W Sundar c Kishan b Sakib 50, J Holder not out 11, R Tewatia not out 4; **Extras: (lb2, w6) 8; Total: (5 wkts) 168; FoW:** 1-15, 2-26, 3-64, 4-124, 5-164; **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-20-1, Reddy 3-0-27-0, Hinge 3-0-17-2, Malinga 4-0-46-0, Sakib 4-0-37-2, Kumar 2-0-19-0.

SRH: T Head c Sindhu b Siraj 0, A Sharma b Rabada 6, I Kishan c Buttler b Rabada 11, R Smaran c Gill b Rabada 9, H Klaasen c Buttler b Holder 14, S Arora c Buttler b Prasidh 16, N Reddy c Sundar b Holder 2, P Cummins c Siraj b Prasidh 19, S Kumar c Buttler b Holder 4, P Hinge st Buttler b Rashid 3, E Malinga not out 0; **Extras: (lb1, w1) 2; Total: (14.5 overs) 86; FoW:** 1-0, 2-6, 3-23, 4-32, 5-56, 6-56, 7-60, 8-72, 9-82; **Bowling:** Siraj 3-1-11-1, Rabada 4-0-28-3, Holder 4-0-20-3, Prasidh 3-0-23-2, Rashid 0.5-0-3-1.

Result: **GT won by 82 runs**

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
GT	12	8	4	0	0.551	16
RCB	11	7	4	0	1.103	14
SRH	12	7	5	0	0.331	14
PBKS	11	6	4	1	0.428	13
CSK	11	6	5	0	0.185	12
RR	11	6	5	0	0.082	12
DC	12	5	7	0	-0.993	10
KKR	10	4	5	1	-0.169	9
MI	11	3	8	0	-0.585	6
LSG	11	3	8	0	-0.907	6

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5 GT have won five successive IPL matches, one each vs CSK, RCB, PBKS, RR & SRH. It is their joint best winning streak in the IPL. They had won five straight games in 2022 between Apr 14 and Apr 30.

82 Winning margin in terms of runs by GT is their largest in the IPL. Their previous best was the 77-run win vs RR in Jaipur on May 9, 2026.

86 SRH have registered their lowest total in the IPL, eclipsing the 96 vs MI in Hyderabad on April 6, 2019.

The pacer who did not want to bowl

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

Dharamshala: **Madhav Tiwari** remembers a time when bowling felt like hard labour. As a 13-year-old in Indore, freshly introduced to leather-ball cricket after a school change, batting was his calling. Bowling, he admits, was exhausting. "I really liked batting. I wanted to become a batter. Bowling was very tiring, you have to use your body a lot," Tiwari said after scripting Delhi Capitals' dramatic three-wicket win over Punjab Kings in Dharamshala.

On Monday night at the HPCA Stadium, though, it was his bowling that set the tone before his bat sealed the deal.

In just his second IPL outing, the 22-year-old allrounder delivered a performance that demanded attention. On a seam-friendly surface, Tiwari bowled with pace (137–140 kph), discipline and a maturity beyond his years. He attacked hard lengths, struck at key moments and removed the dangerous Priyansh Arya to swing momentum. Later, he outfoxed Cooper Connolly with a well-disguised slower bouncer, finishing with 2/40.

"I think the wicket was helping the hard length ball," he said. "So I stuck to that early and then mixed it with wide yorkers and short balls towards the end." If that was phase one, the encore came in a tense chase of 211. With the match in the balance, Tiwari walked in and smashed an unbeaten 18 off eight balls with two boundaries and a six to help DC complete the highest successful T20 chase at the venue.

Alongside him was Ashutosh Sharma, a familiar ally from the Madhya Pradesh circuit. "It was clear what was required. Both of us needed to hit. We were comfortable with that, the atmosphere was very chill," Tiwari said.

The Indore-born youngster, with roots in Rewa, credits his upbringing and his father's support for his smooth journey, but reserves special mention for mentor Amay Khurasiya. At the former India cricketer's academy, Tiwari was moulded into a genuine allrounder despite his batting bias.

"Amay sir made sure I worked on both. When I understood the importance of being a pace-bowling allrounder, I started working equally hard on both," he said. That balance now defines him. "I am 100 percent bowler and 100 percent batsman," he says with conviction.

Interestingly, Tiwari is yet to play senior domestic cricket for Madhya Pradesh. His IPL break came via standout performances in the MP Premier League for Bhopal Leopards, earning him a 40 lakh contract with DC.

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In sweltering Gonda, the Vinesh debate still rages

Women Wrestlers At Meet Say Legend Dealt Unfair Hand, Others Swear By The Rules; Sakshi Posts Phogat's Return After Motherhood Should Have Been Celebrated

Sabi.Hussain & Fazal Khan | TNN

Gonda: In intensely hot and oppressive Gonda, at the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya where wrestling mats have replaced school desks, hundreds of athletes wait endlessly for their bouts. In that wait, one name has dominated every conversation — Vinesh Phogat.

The Katha Vachak central hall at the university complex in Nawabganj has turned into one giant wrestling arena for the senior open ranking series tournament. Though the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) never formally announced it, **TOI** has learnt that the event effectively became a qualification pathway to the national camp and, eventually, the selection trials for the Senior World Championships in Manama, Bahrain later this year.

For Vinesh, competing in Gonda was more than just a comeback. Reversing her retirement decision after the birth of her first child, this was her route back to elite wrestling. Instead, the three-time Olympian once again found herself at the centre of a bitter bout with the federation.

As matches ran several hours behind schedule amid repeated power cuts in the intense humidity, women wrestlers from across the country waited inside the competition hall as discussions around Vinesh's exclusion grew louder. The noise made one turn the gaze outwards too.

The sprawling Mahavidyalaya campus, located near Ayodhya, carried unmistakable reminders of the man whose shadow continues to loom large over Indian wrestling. Though the former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh remained absent from the venue, he was reportedly in constant touch with federation officials while appearing in Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday in the sexual harassment case filed by six women wrestlers, including Vinesh herself.

Against this backdrop then, a debate over Vinesh's return raged in the heat of the competition arena. Some saw her exclusion as unfair treatment of one of the country's finest athletes and a wrong message for women, particularly those attempting to return to sport after motherhood. Others insisted the federation was merely enforcing rules equally.

Among the strongest voices backing Vinesh was fellow Olympian Sakshi Malik, who had stood alongside her during the wrestlers' protest movement at Jantar Mantar in 2023. The Rio Olympics bronze medallist said Vinesh's return after becoming a mother should have been celebrated rather than obstructed. In a social media post, Sakshi publicly urged the Prime Minister to intervene.

"I can give many examples where sports federations in other countries make rules easier for their athletes," Sakshi said in the video shared on social media. "Our federation implements such rules just days before so that Vinesh cannot stage a comeback. We should set an example that women can return after motherhood and still win medals for the country."

NO ENTRY: Vinesh Phogat in Gonda

Sangeeta Chhikara, who was expected to face Vinesh in the 57kg category, admitted she had eagerly awaited the contest. "I have wrestled Vinesh twice and she defeated me both times. She is a legend of Indian wrestling," said Sangeeta, "I've learnt so much competing against her."

The Haryana wrestler, a World Police Games gold medallist and currently posted as a head constable in Meerut, said she was disappointed that the clash never materialised. "If we had wrestled here, it would have been a great contest," she said.

Delhi wrestler Shruti, 20, a junior World Championships bronze medallist in the 50kg category, also supported Vinesh's return. "She is making a comeback as a mother and deserves every opportunity," Shruti said.

Having grown up idolising Vinesh, Shruti felt the federation should have shown greater sensitivity toward one of India's most accomplished wrestlers. "She has done so much for the nation. She deserves at least this much respect," she added.

Yet not all wrestlers agreed.

Pooja, a wrestler from Haryana's Balali village, revealed she once trained alongside Geeta, Babita and Vinesh at Mahavir Phogat's *akhada* and even referred to Vinesh as "bua" (paternal aunt). But she insisted personal relationships could not override regulations.

"I believe rules should be the same for everyone," she said. "I have heard she did not fulfil the six-month return-to-competition requirement and also failed the whereabouts criteria." According to Pooja, wrestlers returning from retirement are required to give six months' notice and remain available for testing.

Another established Haryana wrestler, Nishu (53kg), also opposed Vinesh's participation. "We want to win medals for the country. The federation did the right thing in stopping her for now."

UWW backs WFI in Phogat stand-off

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

Gonda: In the ongoing stand-off between Vinesh Phogat and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), the sport's global governing body, United World Wrestling (UWW), has reportedly backed the Indian federation's authority to decide on the wrestler's future participation and any disciplinary proceedings.

According to messages accessed by **TOI**, UWW president Nenad Lalovic informed the WFI that, as the national federation, it was well within its rights to seek explanations from Vinesh and take any action it deemed appropriate after reviewing her response to the show-cause notice issued last Saturday.

The WFI's notice to Vinesh raised disciplinary and doping-related concerns, including alleged violations linked to retirement and return-to-competition regulations under UWW rules. The federation has barred her from participating in WFI events and competitions until June 26, 2026. Lalovic is understood to have stated that the WFI could legitimately question Vinesh on issues it considered important before permitting her return to competitive wrestling.

Vinesh later shared a confidential email from the International Testing Agency (ITA), which stated that she was eligible to return to competition from Jan 1, 2026.

'India's chess rise chiefly a TN boom'

Humpy Says Women Should Regularly Play In Open Section To Break Through

Amit.Karmarkar
@timesofindia.com

Pune: Koneru Humpy, India's top-rated woman chess player, said that besides China's Zhu Jiner she doesn't see any woman player having the potential to reach an Elo rating of 2600 and break into the top-100 in Open world rankings.

Humpy, who is set to play Norway elite chess meet from May 25 in Oslo, told **TOI** from Vijayawada, "When we have separate women and men tournaments, I don't see a major breakthrough happening for women. Playing in the same circle of players won't help.

"There would not be any great opportunity for improvement unless women start playing continuously in an open section. And you need to work tremendously well to improve by playing in those Open tournaments. I did it for some time before the priorities changed. Judit Polgar and Hou Yifan were exceptions," she added.

Though the reigning women's world champion Ju Wenjun had attained a peak Elo rating of Elo 2604 in March 2017, she is currently at 2559. R Vaishali, her challenger, is at 2496.

The 39-year-old Humpy, first India woman to get a GM title, was one of the favourites to win the Candidates tournament in Cyprus in March-April but withdrew due to safety concerns amid the uncertainty arising out of the war in West Asia. "It's more important that I should love the sport when I play a tournament. I shouldn't feel like I'm keeping my family or my near and dear ones under pressure when I am traveling somewhere," Humpy said, "I have no regrets of not playing in that tournament because the scenarios when I withdrew were entirely different."

Humpy said she took some time to take the decision only because it had a direct impact on qualifying for the World title match. But she felt it was not right to withdraw quietly without explaining her feelings — indirectly suggesting that FIDE were insensitive about her withdrawal and players' safety should have been a top priority.

Humpy preferred to call the chess upsurge in the country as the "Tamil Nadu boom" and felt that more players should come up from other states. She chose not to comment much on the slip in form of world champ D Gukesh or Vaishali qualifying for the women's title match.

Humpy said, "I don't want to comment on any other player or any other situation because I have also experienced many things. I have seen the silence from the world when I'm having a tough situation. Maybe, sometimes, it's better to be silent."

Humpy is open about representing India at the Olympiad this year (India had won team gold without her two years ago) and return to the next Candidates cycle.

HC seeks clarity on FIFA broadcast

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With less than a month to go for the FIFA World Cup, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the stand of the Centre and Prasar Bharti on a plea seeking clarity on who will broadcast the global event in India.

HC was hearing a plea filed by Avdhesh Bairwa, a lawyer, seeking directions to the Centre to acquire the broadcasting rights for the opening match, quarterfinals, semis and the final game in favour of Prasar Bharti till an official broadcaster is finalised. By way of final relief, the petitioner prayed that rights should be acquired for all 104 matches. Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav issued notice on the petition and listed it for hearing on May 20. The senior counsel for the petitioner argued that a citizen has the right to have access to such a telecast. He added that while it was not an absolute right, a "nudge" from the court would "go a long way".

The plea argues that the World Cup, held every four years, is one of the most viewed sporting events in the world. However, no broadcaster has acquired the rights to show the tournament in India this year, depriving him of his fundamental right to receive information and to access the telecast of the event. "Without timely judicial intervention... the petitioner and millions of Indian citizens will be irreparably deprived of their fundamental rights with no adequate alternative remedy," the petition said.

RAMOS AGREES TO BUY BOYHOOD CLUB SEVILLA

Former Spain defender Sergio Ramos is on the verge of buying his boyhood club Sevilla after he and investment group Five Eleven Capital reached an agreement with the club's major shareholders. El Pais reported the deal for around 400m euros covers 80% of the club's total shares.

Leeds draw leaves Spurs in relegation peril

Mathys Tel was hero and villain as Tottenham drew 1-1 at home to Leeds, a result that leaves their Premier League future hanging in the balance. Spurs are now two points clear of 18th-placed West Ham, two games left. AGENCIES

Flick extends Barca contract until 2028, says Yamal 'old enough' to do what he wants

Barca star Lamine Yamal waves a Palestinian flag during the bus parade

Barcelona: Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said on Tuesday he will extend his contract with the LaLiga club until 2028 after his side sealed their 29th league title.

Flick said that Lamine Yamal is old enough to make his own decisions after the Spain star waved a Palestinian flag during an open top bus parade to celebrate winning the Spanish title as 750,000 people took to the streets. "This I don't normally like," he said. "I spoke with him. I said if he wants this, it is his decision. He is old enough. He's 18." AGENCIES

Advocaat returns as Curacao coach

Caracas: Veteran Dutch coach Dick Advocaat, who led Curacao to World Cup qualification, will return as coach for the tournament after his successor Fred Rutten resigned, the federation said on Tuesday. "Advocaat is returning," the president of the Curacao Football Federation (FFK), Gilbert Martina, said.

Advocaat, who at 78 will become the oldest manager in World Cup history, resigned in Feb for family matters. But with his daughter's health reportedly improving, Advocaat has decided to come back. AFP

Spain coach counting on Yamal, Nico fitness

Madrid: Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said Tuesday he was counting on wingers Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams to be fit and available for the World Cup next month.

Yamal, 18, suffered a hamstring injury in late April. Athletic Bilbao's Williams picked up a muscle injury on Sunday, while Arsenal midfielder Mikel Merino is also on the sidelines after breaking his right foot three months ago. "I think that all the players who have been mentioned will be fit and available for the start of the World Cup," De la Fuente said. "But if it's not for the first match, it would be for the second or third," the Spanish coach continued, adding it had been "a very tough year in terms of injuries". AFP

SNAP SHOTS

Rana stars for B'desh

Pace bowler Nahid Rana claimed five wickets as Bangladesh trumped Pakistan by 104 runs in a rain-hit first Test on Tuesday after a thrilling fifth day of batting collapses. Chasing 268 for victory in Dhaka, Pakistan were 119/3 before they fell to 163 all out in the final session with debutant Abdullah Fazal scoring a valiant 66. Bangladesh now hold a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. **Brief scores: Bangladesh: 413 & (o/n:152/3) 240/9 decl in 70.3 overs** (Najmul Shanto 87; Hasan Ali 3-52, Noman Ali 3-76) **vs Pakistan 386 & 163 in 52.5 overs** (Abdullah Fazal 66, Salman Agha 26; Taskin Ahmed 2-40, Nahid Rana 5-40, Taijul Islam 2-22).

Shabnim reverses retirement: South African pacer Shabnim Ismail on Tuesday reversed her international retirement as she was named in the country's 15-player squad for the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in the UK from June 12 to July 5. Aiming to inspire the future generations of women's cricket in the country, the Proteas squad, captained by Laura Wolvaardt, features the 37-year-old Ismail, who last represented SA in the T20 World Cup final in Cape Town in Feb 2023.

Sachin set for DL debut: Sachin Yadav is all set to make his debut in the Diamond League at the Rome leg of the elite athletics series on June 4, while two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra is absent from the competition's entry list. Neeraj, who is currently in Turkiye for training and rehabilitation, has yet to begin his 2026 season. With Neeraj missing from the Rome event, focus will shift to Sachin Yadav, who features among the eight athletes entered in the men's javelin throw competition.

Rashi will be the cynosure: With the country's top three amateurs away on national duty at the Queen Sirikit Cup, the firmly shifts to Goa's Rashi Mishra in the IGU Pune Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship, which begins at the Oxford Golf Resort on Wednesday. Besides Rashi, Priya Kumari, Janneya A Dasanniee, Anushka Gupta, winner of the season opener, are some of the other contenders in the draw

Vihaan hits the front: Vihaan Jain overcame a few late hiccups on the homestretch to shoot a sizzling five-under 67 on the opening day of the IGU Andhra Pradesh Junior Boys Golf Championship in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. Vihaan took a three-shot lead over Bengaluru's Ishnidh Virdi and Arjun Dahiya in Category 'A' (15-17 years). **Leading scores (after 18 holes): Category 'A' (15-17 years):** 67: Vihaan Jain (Del); 70: Ishnidh Virdi (Kar), Arjun Dahiya (Har); **Category 'B' (13-14):** 72: Chaitanya Pandey, Aman Oswal; 75: Aditya Misra; 79: Aditya Tiwari (Kar).

Resurgent KKR in high-stakes contest against RCB

Chitrangada.C@timesofindia.com

The IPL playoff race has reached its decisive stretch. With roughly a dozen league fixtures remaining, eight teams are still in contention for the four playoff spots. No team can afford to relax just yet. This will not be lost on either Royal Challengers Bengaluru or Kolkata Knight Riders when they face off in Raipur on Wednesday.

A look at the points table may suggest that defending champions RCB have a cushion at the top with 14 points. But the constantly shifting dynamics of the table mean they would need at least two wins from their remaining three matches to ensure a safe passage to the playoffs. For KKR, the situation is more precarious. The former champions sit eighth with nine points from 10 matches and another loss would leave them on the brink of elimination.

Heading into the clash, RCB's primary concern is not their position on the table but the fading form of their batting unit. Their narrow two-wicket win over Mumbai Indians on Sunday highlighted their growing reliance on individual rescue acts, with Krunal Pandya steering the chase before Bhuvneshwar Kumar held his nerve in the closing moments.

Captain Rajat Patidar, who began the season strongly, has managed just one half-century and only one other 20-plus score in his last six innings. RCB's opening pair has also struggled, with Virat Kohli dismissed for back-to-back ducks, while Jacob Bethell is still searching for a defining knock after replacing the injured Phil Salt.

As a result, RCB's batting looks less formidable than it did earlier in the tournament. Though they have the firepower — with the likes of Devdutt Padikkal and Tim David capable of taking the match away — RCB's stuttering batters will have their task cut out against Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy. However, Chakravarthy's participation remains uncertain, with KKR assistant coach Shane Watson saying the spinner was "sore" and being monitored.

PREVIEW

EYE ON THE BALL: After back-to-back failures, Virat Kohli will look to get back among runs against KKR in Raipur

In contrast, KKR have rediscovered momentum after an uneven start to the season. Four consecutive victories have revived their campaign, with Finn Allen's unbeaten century against Delhi Capitals underlining the firepower in their batting order. The experience of Ajinkya Rahane and Rinku Singh, along with the versatility of Cameron Green and Angkrish Raghuvanshi, has added balance to the side. History also favours KKR, who lead the head-to-head 20-15, with one match producing no result.

Conditions in Raipur could prove decisive. The surface has been slow and low, making batting difficult. That places added importance on the powerplay battle, where RCB's pace pair of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood will test KKR's top order, while Narine and, if fit, Chakravarthy are expected to control the middle overs.

With the playoff race tightening, a single standout performance in Raipur could significantly alter the course of both campaigns.

'Batting order is more settled'

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SHANE WATSON

Revived by back-to-back wins and a batting unit finally beginning to click, the Kolkata Knight Riders head into Wednesday's crucial IPL contest against hosts Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Raipur believing they are peaking at the right time this season.

Having started with five losses on the trot, the former champions have rediscovered momentum, with assistant coach Shane Watson asserting that the side is beginning to understand its best combinations after a period of transition following the mega auction.

"From where we were halfway through the tournament to the cricket that we've been playing over the last couple of games in particular, it's been very impressive," Watson said during the pre-match press conference in Raipur on Tuesday. "Our batting order is much more settled now. We've got more of an understanding of what really works for us with the make-up of our complete team."

KKR's resurgence has coincided with explosive starts from **Finn Allen**, whose measured yet destructive innings in the previous outing particularly impressed Watson. "It wasn't a typical Finn Allen innings where he's going flat out from ball one," Watson said. "He was much more measured until it was time for him to put his foot down. That's the exciting thing about his evolution as a batter."

While KKR have climbed back into playoff contention, Watson maintained the side was not looking too far ahead despite the similarities with teams that have mounted late surges in previous IPL seasons.

"We haven't talked about anything in the future at all. What's most important is us continuing to put together complete games," he added.

The former champions, however, remain anxious over the fitness of mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who has been nursing soreness over the last two games. "Varun is just being monitored at the moment. We've got our fingers crossed that he'll be available tomorrow, but we're still not exactly sure," Watson stated. Despite KKR's late-season resurgence, RCB bowling coach Omkar Salvi said his side remains focused on its own processes ahead of the high-stakes encounter.

"For now, we are only focusing on our team, on our strengths and preparation. We will take tactical calls based on the way the pitch behaves on the day," Salvi said. "KKR have played well in the last few games and they have good momentum, so definitely it will be a good match," Salvi said.

Will India play frontline pacers in Test vs Afghans?

Tight Scheduling Puts Selectors In A Fix Ahead Of Next International Commitment Six Days After IPL

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New Delhi: The tight schedule for the Indian team has put the national selectors in a fix as they prepare to pick the fast bowlers for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, scheduled to be played in Chandigarh from June 6.

TOI understands that the selectors have a meeting scheduled with the BCCI to discuss the roadmap for the next few months. The selection meeting could take place over the weekend or next week.

It is learnt that the selectors and the team management have expressed their desire to field the strongest XI in every Test. India have to play nine Tests in the World Test Championship (WTC) cycle over the next nine months. However, the Test against Afghanistan is excluded from that cycle.

BUMRAH

SELECTION DILEMMA

The main dilemma at the moment is whether to push the frontline pacers for the Test, with the IPL due to finish on May 31.

According to sources, the selectors are waiting to see which teams make it to the playoffs before taking a call on the pace-bowling attack.

As of Tuesday, Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians were the only two teams to have been eliminated from the IPL playoffs. Jasprit Bumrah is the only fast bowler from these two teams who is a Test regular. However, Bumrah's workload has been a sensitive topic for years. The other Test regulars, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna, are with Gujarat Titans, who are in contention to make the playoffs in the last week of May.

Akash Deep is still recovering from a lower-back injury and is unlikely to be fit anytime soon. Harshit Rana isn't likely to be fit before the third week of June. The selectors have given enough indication that they have moved on from Mohammed Shami. Thus, it will be a major surprise if they choose to go back to him for a one-off Test.

TOI understands that the pool of fast bowlers on the BCCI's targeted list have been asked to increase their workload for the remainder of the IPL. Anshul Kamboj and Gurnoor Brar have been part of the India 'A' scheme of things over the last year. The only other pacer who can push for a spot is Jammu and Kashmir's Auqib Nabi, who has had a stellar couple of seasons in first-class cricket. He, however, isn't a part of the India 'A' programme.

It will be interesting to see if the selectors ignore the pathway they have created for Test hopefuls. Prince Yadav has impressed the selectors but he too hasn't gone through the grind yet.

"The selectors don't believe in compromising the Test squad just because India are playing Afghanistan. They want the best lineup to play. They don't want to distribute Test caps so easily. Siraj's workload threshold is very high. Prasidh hasn't played an IPL match since April 24. Nitish Kumar Reddy is also seen as someone who can contribute to the seam-bowling department. The BCCI monitors all data points when it comes to workload management," a BCCI source said, adding, "A call on Bumrah will be taken after a detailed discussion. The last time India played Afghanistan in a Test match, the frontline XI was played."All frontline batters, though, are expected to be picked for the one-off Test.

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Barcelona star Lamine Yamal waves a Palestinian flag during an open top bus parade as team celebrates winning Spanish title, **P 22**

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THE TIMES

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JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ WITHDRAWS HER PLEA SEEKING TO TURN APPROVER IN ₹200 CRORE MONEY LAUNDERING CASE INVOLVING CONMAN SUKESH

PM cuts convoy; depts to adopt austerity measures

Govt Likely To Urge Staff To Use Metro, Opt For Car Pooling

Rajshekhar Jha & Dipak Dash

New Delhi: The size of PM Modi's cavalcade has been officially reduced at his instance, a move towards austerity to nudge others in govt to follow suit. Sources said that the PM has asked the Special Protection Group, the elite security corps which looks after his security, to try to reduce the number of cars in his convoy by 50%.

Besides, he has desired that the number of electric vehicles in the fleet be encouraged, but without buying new ones to avoid additional expenditure.

SPG has already started implementing the instruction, while ensuring that there is no compromise on the mandatory security guidelines laid down in the Blue Book. Sources said the size of the carcade during PM's recent visits outside Delhi looked slimmer and SPG will build upon the first step.

There are indications that ministries and departments are gearing up for austerity measures in the coming days ranging from urging staff to use the Metro more often, opt for car pooling and avoid big banquets.

▶ Reduce fuel use, P 10

PM Modi greets NDA allies and CMs of BJP-governed states at the oath ceremony of Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati on Tuesday

Monsoon may hit Andamans this week: IMD

Monsoon is likely to arrive over parts of south Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea and Andaman & Nicobar Islands around the end of this week, days ahead of its usual onset time of May 20-22, IMD said Tuesday. IMD hasn't yet issued a forecast on the likely date of monsoon's arrival over Kerala. The normal onset date over Kerala is June 1. TNN

Insurance pool of ₹13,000 crore for Indian ships

Govt Tuesday launched the $1.5-billion Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool, backed by a $1.4-billion sovereign guarantee (₹12,980cr), to provide risk cover for Indian vessels on international routes, including war and high-risk zones. The move is expected to lower shipping insurance premiums. TNN

K'taka makes cycle tracks mandatory

Karnataka govt's amended motor vehicle rules mandate dedicated cycle tracks on all arterial roads with speed limits of 30kmph or above. Rules have also introduced specific regulations for school zones. **P6**

Digilocker msg sets off Class 12 anxiety

Coming soon' messages on DigiLocker and the Umang app have sent lakhs of CBSE Class 12 students into a tizzy over board exam results while the board website offers no update. CBSE has offered no clarification. TNN

E-sale: Chemists to shut shop on May 20

Around 12.4L chemists in India will shut for a day on May 20 to protest against unregulated online medicine sales and deep discounting by e-pharmacies, which they say are vulnerable to AI-generated prescriptions. TNN

Yogi reduces fleet, advises 2-day WFH

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday ordered an immediate 50% reduction in the official fleets of the CM, ministers and bureaucrats, while calling for broader public participation by reducing fuel consumption, working from home at least two days a week and avoiding gold purchase. TNN

'Oil cos losing ₹1k cr a day': Hike in prices imminent, hints Puri

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said public sector oil marketing companies may not be able to sustain daily losses of Rs 1,000 crore from selling petrol and diesel below market price, in a strong indication that pump prices are set to rise in coming days.

ENERGY WARS

"They're taking a loss to insulate the consumer. (But) at some stage govt would have to take a call," Puri said at CII's annual business summit. "How long will the oil companies be able to take it (losses)? Frankly, that's something that worries me," he said.

Puri said oil retailers were staring at under-recoveries of Rs 2 lakh crore and Rs 1 lakh crore losses in April-June quarter, which may wipe out last year's profit. The only way govt may avoid "hard measures" is if the Strait of Hormuz reopens and the crude basket price falls to $70 a barrel, he said. Crude prices have crossed $100 since the war began.

▶ Poll-driven freeze, P 10

> "...Unlike other countries which have had to either face problems in terms of availability and supply or where prices have gone rampant, **we have had stable prices and supplies...** But if this (disruption due to W Asia war) continues, **we have to start thinking about measures to lessen the fiscal strain**
>
> —Hardeep Puri, OIL MINISTER

Truce jitters sends sensex down 1,500pts

As the fragile ceasefire in West Asia continues to roil global markets and send crude prices soaring, the sensex lost another 1,456 points (1.9%) to close below the 75k mark Tuesday. Of the 30 sensex stocks, 29 closed in the red with SBI the only exception. In two sessions this week, sensex has lost nearly 2,800 points or over 3%.

▶ April consumer price inflation hits 3.5%, P 17

The rupee fell to 95.73 per dollar, eclipsing its previous record low of 95.43. Likely intervention by the central bank helped limit further losses, traders said, with the rupee **ending the session at 95.62. P 17**

Debris, piled-up soil led to Bowring Hospital wall collapse, reveals probe

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Bengaluru: A govt-appointed probe panel has identified construction debris, piled-up soil and a nearby cricket practice facility as the reasons behind the collapse of the Bowring Hospital compound wall that killed seven people during heavy rain and strong winds in the city on April 29.

The panel was led by Bengaluru Urban district deputy commissioner Jagadeesha G. "A large quantity of construction debris had been dumped near the wall. Though the wall was about eight feet high, the debris had piled up to nearly six feet. Some soil and debris were also spread on a nearby cricket pitch. Heavy rain caused the debris to slide towards the wall, leading to its collapse," a source in the district administration told **TOI**. The contractor and the engineer concerned failed to remove the debris in time, which was a serious negligence. "The report has strongly recommended action against those responsible," the source added.

DC Jagadeesha, however, refused to divulge details of the probe and said that a confidential report had been submitted to the govt.

Dr Manoj Kumar HV, director-cum-dean of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, said he was unaware of the report's contents.

WALL 8FT, DEBRIS PILED UP TO 6FT

- **Seven people were killed** after Bowring Hospital compound **wall collapsed due to heavy rain on April 29**
- Construction debris **piled up to nearly 6ft against 8ft wall**
- Investigation **flags contractor & engineer for failing to clear debris** in time
- Inquiry committee also **examines role of nearby cricket training facility**

> The cricket training facility was set up at the request of students under a CSR initiative. The facility was located 17ft from the collapsed wall. When we consulted the engineers, they assured us that anything beyond 6ft would not compromise the safety of the wall — **Dr Manoj Kumar H V** | BOWRING HOSP DIRECTOR

B'luru man, 65, dies after electric scooter battery explodes at home

Bengaluru: A 65-year-old auto driver died after the battery of an electric scooter exploded inside his house in Murphy Town, Ulsoor, early Tuesday morning.

Lourd Nathan was sleeping near the Okinawa electric scooter after plugging it in for charging. The scooter belonged to his elder son, Frank Anthony. Due to health issues, Nathan had stopped driving his auto-rickshaw and was resting at home, police said.

Probe revealed that Nathan switched on the charger around 11pm. He slept in a small room on the ground floor while Anthony and his wife lived on the first floor. TNN

▶ Switched off charger, P 3

Hangar Games: Pak gave Iran jets safe parking spot?

Chidanand Rajghatta

As Islamabad quietly pitched itself as an honest broker between Washington and Tehran during the latest West Asia flareup, another, far more combustible, role was allegedly unfolding behind the scenes: Pakistan gave sanctuary to Iranian military aircraft that feared becoming targets of US attacks.

According to bombshell disclosure made by US officials to CBS News, Iran parked multiple aircraft, including an Iranian air force RC-130 reconnaissance aircraft, at Pakistan air force's Nur Khan base shortly after President Donald Trump announced an uneasy ceasefire with Iran in early April.

The report, which has sent diplomatic and intelligence circles in Washington buzzing, injects fresh ambiguity into Pakistan's carefully cultivated image as a neutral interlocutor. It also revives one of the subcontinent's great geopolitical ironies: over five decades after Iran sheltered Pakistani military assets during the 1971 India-Pakistan war — with quiet encouragement from the Nixon administration — Pakistan now appears accused of returning the favour to Tehran as US weighs military pressure on Iran.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 14
▶ UAE said to have hit Iran earlier in West Asia war, P 14
▶ Returning the favour, P 14

All 4 cubs of 1st India-born cheetah mom found dead

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Bhopal: All four cubs born to India's first wild-breeding India-born cheetah, a birth celebrated barely a month ago as Project Cheetah's biggest breakthrough, were found dead Tuesday near their usual habitat at MP's Kuno National Park. The cubs' partially consumed carcasses led forest officials to suspect a leopard attack.

A monitoring team discovered the remains around 6.30am during routine surveillance in the Sheopur territorial division adjoining Kuno. The cubs, born April 11 to cheetah KGP12, had last been seen alive Monday evening, officials said.

"The distance of the canine marks indicates that the cubs were tracked and targeted (by a leopard)," a forest officer said, drawing on preliminary postmortem findings and field evidence.

State chief wildlife warden Samita Rajora described it as an "unfortunate incident".

File photo of cheetah KGP12 with her cubs on the day they were born

▶ Mother safe, P 10

Introduce Rajasthani in all primary schools, SC tells Raj

'Instruction In Mother Tongue Mandated By Constitution'

The court said it could not remain a silent spectator to the stark dilution of rights so clearly recognised in the Constitutional text and legislative enactments

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New Delhi: Holding that the constitutional mandate impels the State to take measures to facilitate effective learning through use of mother tongue in primary education, Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Rajasthan govt to take affirmative and time-bound steps towards introducing and providing Rajasthani as a subject and medium of instruction in all schools, govt and private, in a phased and progressive manner.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta stressed that the mother tongue serves not merely as a medium of communication but also as a vital instrument for cognitive growth and cultural continuity.

"Section 29(2)(f) of the RTE Act, 2009, is a key provision aimed at securing the delivery of quality education in a real and substantive sense. Proceeding on the well-established pedagogical premise that instruction imparted in the child's mother tongue or regional language significantly enhances comprehension and learning outcomes, the provision intends to obviate situations where students are unable to meaningfully grasp foundational concepts at the very threshold," the bench said.

The court noted that Centre's policy is very clear on imparting education in mother tongue but said there appears to be substantial deficit in actual implementation of commitments by State at ground level. "Little demonstrable progress has been made in taking concrete and affirmative steps to ensure that students are effectively imparted instruction in the language of their choice, or at the very least, in the regional language, as constitutionally and legally mandated," it said.

Under such circumstances, the court could not remain a silent spectator to the stark dilution of rights so clearly recognised in constitutional text, legislative enactments and binding precedents, it said.

The bench rejected the plea of the state that only languages included in Eighth Schedule to the Constitution are being taught as additional languages in govt primary and upper primary schools. "Such a position, in our considered view, discloses an apparent pedantic approach," the bench said.

Muslim prof's conversion to Hinduism valid, says HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has pulled up Prayagraj administration for ordering a fresh police inquiry into a Muslim assistant professor's conversion to Hinduism after a criminal case was filed by his Hindu father-in-law, who opposed his daughter's marriage to him. Two inquiries in 2022 and 2023 had already found the conversion voluntary.

A division bench of Justice Ajit Kumar and Justice Indrajeet Shukla placed in abeyance an Aug 2024 order by Prayagraj additional district magistrate (administration) refusing to confirm conversion of Anil Pandit, formerly Mohammad Ahashan, under UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. HC directed ADM to pass a new order within three weeks, saying matter required a "pragmatic view". The next hearing is scheduled for May 27.

IMD launches two forecast services to support farmers

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Farmers would now be able to make more informed decisions relating to sowing, irrigation, crop protection and harvest

New Delhi: India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday launched two new services, including an AI-enabled monsoon advance forecasting system that will provide information on progress of the seasonal rainfall and "localised weather information" up to four weeks in advance to support farmers across 16 states and more than 3,000 sub-districts.

The second product, launched as a pilot service, will provide high-resolution spatial rainfall forecast for Uttar Pradesh. It can generate operational rainfall forecasts at 1-km resolution up to 10 days in advance, using dense observational networks and AI techniques. Similar services will gradually be extended to other parts of the country with the continuing growth of observational infrastructure.

The pilot system uses advanced AI-driven downscaling techniques and integrates data from Automatic Rain Gauges, Automatic Weather Stations, Doppler Weather Radars and satellite-based rainfall datasets.

Besides using different modes, including mobile applications, SMS alerts, WhatsApp, Kisan portals, other digital platforms and television, the hyperlocal forecast information will also be relayed through displays installed at vegetable and other markets. Members of rural self-help groups will also get the information.

Launching the two forecast products, Union minister of earth sciences Jitendra Singh said they mark a major shift from conventional weather forecasting towards impact-based and decision-support forecasting, capable of providing "precise, location-specific and actionable information" to farmers, administrators, disaster managers and citizens.

The systems have been developed jointly by IMD, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting.

ED opposes bail to coal 'smuggler'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear the plea of Enforcement Directorate seeking cancellation of bail granted to alleged West Bengal coal smuggling 'kingpin' Anup Majee and issued notice to him but it observed that the agency was dragging its feet as the probe was going on for the last six years.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice on the ED's plea challenging a Delhi High Court order granting anticipatory bail to Majee in June last year. It, however, rejected ED's plea for an early date and listed the case for Sept, and Majee would continue to enjoy the protection till then.

Additional solicitor general S V Raju, appearing for the ED, contended that Majee was earlier absconding in the case in which he is the kingpin and Rs 2,700 crore of national resources were plundered. He said that Majee's accountant is still absconding.

Constituent Assembly adopted Constitution in English, not Hindi: Kerala

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: What should Supreme Court rely on — English or Hindi text of the Constitution — while examining the true meaning of denomination that appears in Article 26 and in resolving the apparent conflict between individual freedom to religion and denominational religious rights?

This seminal question has propped up in different forms before the nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that is at the fag end of a prolonged 'faith vs fundamental right' debate which got renewed after the 2018 SC judgment quashing Sabarimala Ayyappa temple custom of barring entry of women in the 10-50 age group.

Many senior advocates had argued that the landmark 1954 Shirur Mutt judgment erred in interpreting denomination by accepting its meaning as given in the Oxford Dictionary, which carried western religious bias. The judgment had said, "The word 'denomination' has been defined in Oxford Dictionary to mean 'a collection of individuals classed together under the same name: a religious sect or body having a common faith and organisation and designated by a distinctive name'."

They had argued that the correct meaning of 'denomination' is available in the Hindi version of the Constitution, which puts it as 'sampradaya'. But the Kerala govt, through senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, said the Constituent Assembly had adopted the Constitution in English language and never adopted the Hindi translation.

Hence, SC should go by the English text of the Constitution, Gupta said and insisted on this, despite Article 394A — inserted through a constitutional amendment in 1987 — providing that "the translation of this Constitution and of every amendment thereof published under this Article shall be deemed, for all practical purposes, the authoritative text thereof in the Hindi language."

Bus shelter part of right to dignity: HC

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Nagpur: Absence of basic facilities at bus stops is not merely an administrative failure but a violation of citizens' right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Nagpur bench of Bombay high court has held.

A division bench comprising Justices Anil Kilor and Raj Wakode took suo motu cognisance of newspaper reports highlighting the absence of bus shelters, seating arrangements and passenger amenities at several key locations in Nagpur city.

The court noted that thousands of commuters are forced to wait on roadsides in extreme summer weather conditions because of civic neglect and poor planning. " The state effectively denies them a life of dignity guaranteed under Article 21," the bench said, lamenting a "failure of constitutional governance". The court also flagged encroachments of bus stops by vendors and vehicle owners.

Elias lst woman principal at St Stephen's

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New Delhi: "We were only four girls in the maths honours class. We were wanted everywhere — societies, sports, drama club — because there were hardly any women on campus."

When Nandita Narain walked into St Stephen's College in 1976, women were still a novelty at the institution that had opened its doors to female students only a year earlier. In classrooms, dramatics societies and hostel corridors, the college was still adjusting to what co-education meant. "There were no female candidates anywhere," recalled Narain, part of the second batch afterSt Stephen's became co-ed. "The Shakespeare Society earlier used to bring girls from Miranda House to perform female roles. Suddenly, girls became part of campus life."

Five decades later, the college is preparing for another first. Founded in 1881, St Stephen's College has announced the appointment of its first woman principal in 145 years history, **Prof Susan Elias**, who is set to take charge from June 1. Elias will serve as the 14th principal of the college, succeeding John Varghese. She is a double PhD from IIT Madras and Anna University.

Prof. Susan Elias has previously served as Pro Vice-Chancellor at Chandigarh University. and has also worked as Professor of Electronics Engineering at VIT Chennai, among other academic roles, according to her LinkedIn profile. Elias could not be reached for comment.

The milestone comes nearly 50 years after the college became co-educational in 1975 and two decades after it elected its first woman students' union president in 2005.

Founded in Chandni Chowk by the Cambridge Mission to Delhi, the college became part of University of Delhi in 1922 before moving to its iconic red-brick campus in the University Enclave. But for nearly a century after its founding, the institution remained an all-male preserve. Even after women entered classrooms in 1975, gender ratios remained uneven for years, former students recalled. Narain remembers the early years with affection.

"The boys were very chivalrous and gentlemanly," she said. "We would sing songs together, attend society activities and stay back for dramatics rehearsals. At that time, there were no Metro trains or app-based taxis, so I would travel home late by exchanging multiple buses after college events." But the arrival of women also quietly altered campus culture. "Earlier boys would roam freely in residential blocks," she recalled. "Suddenly women were there, and they felt they had lost some privacy."

For Dr Maya John, who became the college's first woman students' union president in 2005—now a faculty member at Jesus and Mary College, Elias's appointment brings back memories of the battles women students fought for equal space on campus. "When we initiated campaigns for equitable women's hostels in St Stephen's, one could see the glass ceiling becoming more visible," she said.

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